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LIFESTYLE

Holy birthday, Batman! Dark Knight is 75

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Israeli aircraft strike 30 Gaza homes, killing senior militant » Page 10

STARS STRIPES.

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Free to Deployed Areas

Pentagon: Russia firing mortars into Ukraine

By Daria Marchak, Daryna Krasnolutska and Scott Rose Bloomberg News

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine and Russia traded accusations of cross-border shelling Friday as tensions between the ex-Soviet neighbors intensified.

"Ukraine's border checkpoint

at Marynivka in the Donetsk region was attacked from Russian territory by mortars, Grad missile systems and artillery," at 6 pm. and 11 pm. local time Thursday, damaging infrastructure and equipment, a Ukrainian Defense Ministry spokesman, Andriy Lysenko, said Friday in Kiev.

On Friday, Pentagon spokes-

man Col. Steve Warren backed up Lysenko's accusations.

"For the last several days, Russian forces using Russian artillery from Russian soil have conducted attacks against Ukrainian military positions in Ukraine," Warren told reporters, citing information provided by the U.S. intelligence community. Warren did not provide details about the number of shells fired by Russia, but did say there were "several instances of indirect fire attacks."

"This is unquestionably an escalation from a military perspective," Warren said.

The Pentagon has seen no indications of Ukrainian civilian ca-

sualties as a result of the shelling, according to Warren.

Rossiya 24 state television said about 40 artillery shells landed in the Rostov region of southern Russia from across the border and one woman may have been injured. It showed pictures of unexploded shells near a border post.

SEE FIRING ON PAGE 8



AP

QUOTE

OF THE DAY

"She says, 'Don't shoot me, I'm pregnant — I'm going to have a baby,' and I shot her anyway. The lady didn't run as fast as the man, so I shot her in the back twice."

 Tom Greer of Long Beach, Calif., who came home to find two burglars and shot at them, killing one

See story on Page 6

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MILITARY

Fire won't delay F-35 production boost

By Steve Kaskovich Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegran

FORT WORTH, Texas — An engine fire that prompted the U.S. military to ground its fleet of F-35 fighter jets last month is not expected to delay a planned increase in production at Lockheed Martin's west Fort Worth

tion at Lockheed Martin's west Fort Worth complex in coming years, a top Pentagon official said Thursday. Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, also said the military's decision to creat the 3.5% highly articipated an.

Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, also said the military's decision to scrap the F-35's highly anticipated appearance at the Farnbrorough International Airshow in England last week was "wise" and does not mark a major setback for the program.

"I fully supported it and so did the Secre-"if the program."

tary of Defense," Kendall said. "We communicated that (to customers at Farnborough) and I think it was understood."

Kendall was among a bevy of top government and military officials who came to Fort Worth to attend a rollout ceremony to mark completion of the first F-35 built for Australia. Also in attendance was Marillyn Hewson.

Lockheed's chairman and chief executive officer, and Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan, the Pentagon's F-35 program chief.

The event was billed as a milestone for the F-35 program and for Australia, one of eight foreign development partners on the fighth foreign development partners on the fighth get program. In April, Australia announced plans to increase its F-35 orders from 14 to 72, strengthening its commitment to the program, which has suffered from years of cost overruns and technical delays.

over runs and recumand delays.

Air Marshall Geoff Brown, chief of the Royal Australian Air Force, said the F-3S will become a key component of the Pacific nation's defense strategy, and will provide an "exponential leap" in technology, with its advanced stealth and electronic warfare capabilities.

The first Australian F-35 will head to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, where it will be used in flight training for foreign pilots. The aircraft is expected to arrive in Australia in 2018. The U.S. military has a fleet of 97 F-35s in the midst of flight testing, and others have been completed for the United Kingdom and the Netherland.

As a development partner on the aircraft, Australia was also able to have industrial companies participate in the manufacturing process. As a result, there are Australian parts in almost every F-35 being produced, said Mathias Cormann, a Senator in the Australian Parliament and Minister for Finance.

The June 23 engine fire occurred during the takeoff of a test flight at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. Investigators have determined that some parts in the engine rubbed together too hard, causing the blade to fail, Roodan said

The F-35 was cleared to resume limited flying last week and restrictions are likely to remain in place until the fire investigation is completed.

"We're reasonably confident that we can fly the aircraft, so it's back in the air," Kendall said.

While it's likely that some changes will be required to fix the Pratt & Whitney engine, the work is not expected to be monumental and shouldn't slow down production, Bogdan gold

Taliban kill 14 Shiites in Afghanistan road attack

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban insurgents halted minibuses in western Afghanistan, identified 14 Shiite passengers and shot them dead by the side of the road overnight Friday, an official said.

The buses were traveling from Kabul and were carrying about 30 passengers, many of whom had gone to the capital to shop ahead of the holiday marking the end of the Missim holy month of Ramadan, said Sayed Anwar Rahmati, the governor of the western Ghor province, where the attack took place.

After questioning the passengers, the Islamic militants identified 14, including three women, as Hazara Shittes. The insurgents then bound the passengers hands, led them away and shot them, Rahmati said, adding that the other passengers were released. The dead included a couple who were engaged and two relatives traveling with them, he said:

The Taliban, like other Sunni extremist groups, view the country's minority Shiite community as apostates, and have targeted Hazaras in the past with suicide hombings and other attacks.

From The Associated Press



RAHMAT GUL/A

Afghans demonstrate against Israel

Afghan demonstrators shout slogans against Israel during a rally Friday marking Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day in Kabul, Afghanistan. Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets of Kabul on Friday to mark Al-Quds Day, the last Friday of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, shouting their support for the Palestinian people and highlighting the importance of the city of Jerusalem to Muslims.



MILITARY

Mabus: **Combat** ship cost to decline

ABOARD USS INDEPEN-DENCE — Operating costs for the U.S. Navy's newest ships will de-cline and "become more normal" over time, Navy Sec Mabus said Thursday. Secretary Ray

The Navy designed littoral combat ships to have smaller crews and lower costs than other vessels, but a Government Accountability Office report earlier this month said they each cost about \$79 million to operate annually. That's more than the \$54 million it costs to operate a frigate, which are larger and have more sailors on board.

As more of the ships enter the fleet and are used, the costs will hee "well within acceptable limits" Mabus told The Associated Press during a visit to the USS Independence, the second littoral combat ship to be commissioned. while it participated in exercises off Hawaii.

I think as we get into the operations, vou're going to see them become more normal.

Mabus said of

the costs.

Mabus said

on new classes

of Navy ships

to the 1960s.

They echo the

latest reports

combat ship,

he said.

"They

*They're always concerned he's reviewed GAO reports about whether the ship can do anything on the littoral or how it's going to fit into the

always confleet. 7 cerned about the operating costs. They're Ray Mabus Navy secretary always

cerned the operational ability of the ship. They're always concerned about whether the ship can do anything or how it's going to fit into the fleet," he said.

New vessels are more expensive to operate and start off having more difficulties, in part, because ships have to be tested as they're being built. Unlike aircraft, you can't build a few and test them, and then build more Mabus said

The Navy plans to deploy littoral combat ships to Singapore on a rotational basis. The first to go on this mission, the USS Freedom, is a different version of the ship. It deployed to Singapore last year.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in February that the Navy would build 32 of the vessels in-stead of the 52 initially planned. If all of the initially planned ves-sels were built, the littoral combat ships would account for one-sixth of a 300-ship fleet.



SEALs participate in RIMPAC exercise

Navy SEALs within an inflatable boat depart the littoral combat ship USS Independence during a training mission for the Rim of the Pacific Exercise 2014.

Senate approves Votel as SOCOM commander

By HOWARD ALTMAN Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

Joseph Votel, newly minted Army four-star general, will be-come the 10th commander of Special Operations Command.

By unanimous consent, the Senate on Wednesday confirmed Votel's promotion and new position as commander of the MacDill Air Force Base headquartered command, said Ryan Brown, a spokesman for Sen. Bill Nelson.

Votel, who before the confirmation was a lieutenant general in charge of the Joint Special Operations Command, will take over

from Adm. William McRayen, 58. who is scheduled to retire after a 37-year career that included planning Operation Neptune Spear, the Navy SEAL raid that killed

Osama bin Laden.
The second Navy SEAL to command SOCOM, McRaven took over from the first, now-retired Adm. Eric Olson on Aug. 8, 2011.

The Senate also confirmed the nominations of Adm. Bill Gortney to be commander of U.S. Northern Command and NORAD, Army Gen. John Campbell as commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford as commandant of the Marine Corps

Votel, 56, previously served as SOCOM chief of staff.

He is the "perfect guy" to succeed McRaven, Doug Brown, a retired Army general who ran SOCOM from 2003 to 2007, told The Tampa Tribune last month.

"He is a seasoned warrior, with a lot of time on the battlefield. understands SOF (special operation forces), has had a long, long career in special operations. He is just the perfect guy to replace Adm. McRaven.'

Marine who vanished in Iraq under investigation

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Marine Corps officers have launched a formal investigation into whether a Lebanese-American Marine deserted his unit in Iraq or months later after returning to the United States, a military spokesman said

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun was being investigated for alleged desertion, destruction of government property and larceny, said Lt. Col. Cliff W. Gilmore, a spokesman for the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune. Hassoun faced those charges a decade ago after disappearing from his unit in Iraq with a 9 mm service pistol and a Humvee.

Hassoun is being held in Camp Lejeune's brig pending the investigation and decisions about whether he will face charges, Gilmore said. A decision on whether to charge Hassoun could come from Maj. Gen. William Beydler, the 2nd MEF's commander, before or after an Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a grand

Hassoun, 34, turned himself in to military authorities last month at an undisclosed location in the Middle East and was returned to Camp Lejeune more than nine years after he failed to return from a family visit in Utah. His commanders then officially classi fied him as a deserter, authorizing civilian police to apprehend him.

Hassoun, who was born in Lebanon and is a naturalized American citizen, enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 2002 and was trained as a motor vehicle operator. He was serving as an Arabic translator at the time of his disappearance in Fallujah in western

Iraq in June 2004.

Seven days later, a photo of a blindfolded Hassoun with a sword poised above his head appeared on Al-Jazeera television. A group called the National Islamic Re sistance/1920 Revolution Brigade claimed to be holding him

Soon after the photo and statement. Hassoun contacted Ameriment, Hassoun contacted Ameri-can officials in Beirut, Lebanon, on July 8, 2004, saying he had been kidnapped. But the mili-tary doubted his story and he was brought back to the U.S. to face desertion and theft charges. Hassoun insisted he had been captured by Iraqi insurgents and was still a loyal Marine.

"I did not desert my post," he told reporters. "I was captured and held against my will by anti-coalition forces for 19 days. This was a very difficult and challeng-

ing time for me."

Just before a military grand jury hearing in January 2005, he vanished again and didn't turn up until his surrender last month.

The Defense Department recorded 466 members of all services either went absent without leave, AWOL, or were classified as deserters after being gone for 30 days in 2012, the last year for which figures were available.

MILITARY

Survey details young vets' mental health woes

By Jon Harper Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Nearly half of all respondents to a major survey of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans know at least one veteran from those conflicts who has tried to kill himself.

The survey, released Thursday, was conducted earlier this year by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. IAVA received responses to an extensive list of questions from more than 2,000 of the nation's younger veterans, the vast majority of whom served in the Army or the Marine Corps.

Respondents ranked suicide and mental health as the biggest issue facing post-9/11 veterans. Among some of the more troubling findings:

■ 31 percent of respondents have thought about taking their own lives since joining the military.

■ 40 percent know at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran who has committed suicide.

■ 47 percent know at least one Iraq or Afghanistan veteran who has tried to commit suicide.

■ 53 percent have mental health problems; within that demographic, 27 percent are not seeking care.

The survey doesn't necessarily reflect the results that would be gleaned from questioning all Iraq and Afghanistan combat veter-

ans, given the methodology.

Among those getting care for mental health issues, the VA received fairly high marks, although not compared with other providers. Of those respondents who used the VA, 72 percent were satisfied with their care, versus 91 percent who were satisfied



MEREDITH TIBBETTS/Stars and Stripes

rom left, Charlie Cook, Jackie Maffucci, Terri Tanielian and Phillip Carter participate in a panel discussion of the IAVA survey results July 24

with the treatment they received from non-VA professionals.

However, when it comes to actually getting in to see a VM mental health care provider, respondents reported major problems. More than two-thirds of those who used the VA's mental health care system had difficulty scheduling an appointment, compared with just 31 percent of non-VA provider users who faced similar challenges.

"It's not just about having great care. It's about having access. You've got to get your foot in the door before you can actually get that care," said Jackie Maffucci, IAVA's research director, when the results of the survey were

IAVA suggestions for dealing with the crisis include:

■ Encourage the VA to hire more mental health care professionals to meet the growing demand.

■ Give veterans 15 years to enroll in the VA health care system instead of five, because veterans might delay due to stigma or a delayed onset of symptoms.

a Offer of symptoms.
Offer of symptoms.
The offer of symptoms of the offer of service members who were dishonorably discharged, because they may have been discharged because of disciplinary problems stemming from an undiagnosed mental illness.

■ Improve the monitoring and evaluation systems for the government's mental health programs.

■ Improve training among VA health care staff to help them better recognize and treat mental health problems.

IAVA emphasized the importance of loved ones encouraging those with mental health problems to get care. According to IAVA, 77 percent of survey respondents who had someone close to them recommend they get help, ultimately sought treatment because of that advice.
"That's a powerful message to

"Inars a powerful message to family members, friends, peers who are out there, to just coax them," Maffucci said. "When we encourage our loved ones to seek help, that's what's going to make the difference."

The survey was conducted prior to the ongoing scandal that has engulfed the VA following revelations of mismanagement and malfeasance at VA hospital centers. Some experts worry that the bad press that the VA has gotten recently will discourage ver-erans from seeking mental health care, and possibly lead to an increase in suicide.

"Certainly there is a huge concern that a lot of the talk is going to turn [them] off — particularly those individuals whose only option is the VA — to not seeking care," Maffucci said. "Veterans that sought care

"Veterans that sought care from the VA were slightly less likely to commit suicide than the rest of the population ...

"So that suggests that it's a real problem if we make the VA a less attractive care option, and so we sort of do so at our peril," according to Phil Carter, the director of the Military, Veterans and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security, who participated in a panel discussion about the survey's findings.

The ongoing political and media firestorm surrounding the VA may also hinder the department's efforts to recruit more mental health care providers, according to experts.

"Right now, particularly, it's challenging," Maffucci said. "VA is not probably a place where people are looking at right now saying, 'Hey, I want to go there. They look like they've got their stuff together.'"

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AFRICOM chief: Military one piece of security puzzle on continent

By John Vandiver Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — International efforts to help Libyas fledgling government will require a "huge international effort" that must involve more than millitary support, Africa Command chief Gen. David Rodriguez said Friday.

With the widespread proliferation of weapons in the country and rival militia groups vying for power, Libyan political leaders "continue to be thwarted in their efforts to build a government that serves the people," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez, speaking at a roundtable with reporters visiting from Africa, said his command's main focus is helping to improve the capabilities of local militaries on the continent.

There are plans for AFRICOM to train Libyan forces, but unrest in the country so far has hindered efforts by the U.S. and NATO to provide direct training.

Since NATO's intervention in

Libya in 2011, which eventually led to the overthrow of longtime dictator Moamar Ghadaffi, Libya has functioned as a virtually failed state. Weapons pillaged from the old regime's armories have fallen into the hands of various militant and extremist groups, adding to the instability.

"Arms, ammunition and explosives are all over the place and provide opportunities for these violent groups to generate revenues to assert their will through violence," Rodriguez said.

"It will take a huge international effort, diplomatic effort, to help build a government that will serve the people," Rodriguez added. "Militias and ethnic rival organizations have been the ones providing the security, not the

Rival militias also have been battling each other. In recent days, heavy fighting around Tripoli's international airport has destroyed nearly two dozen parked aircraft. The capital has been carved up into militia controlled zones; the U.N. and Red Cross



Courtesy of AFRICO

Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commander of U.S. Africa Command, responds to questions from a delegation of media representatives from Angola and Mozambique during a briefing Friday at the command headquarters in Stuttsart. Germany.

have withdrawn staff. In May, the U.S. deployed a Marine crisis response team to Sicily to be on standby in case the United States needs to evacuate its heavily fortified embassy. Across many parts of Africa, there are concerns about growing threats to regional security. Islamic militant groups have taken root across a swath of territory stretching from Somalia on the east coast across the Sahara desert and into northern Nigeria, on the west coast, where the group Boko Haram has increased attacks on civilians.

Rodriguez said there was no simple military solution to the problem. While the U.S. provides training to many militaries on the front lines of the counterterror fight, as well as intelligence and surveillance capabilities, answers to threats must come from indipenous leaders. he said

"The important part is to know most of the challenges are not purely military challenges."

Steps to improve security must coincide with good governance, rule of law and economic development, he said.

As the U.S. military supports local efforts, it must take a broad approach that incorporates regional and international partners and operates in tandem with other government agencies.

"That's part of where we can improve strategy," Rodriguez said.

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ESTEBAN FELIX/A

Elsa Lopez, 57, cries July 19 as she receives her grandchildren, Sandra, 8, and Cesar, 5, who were deported along with their mother, from the US a day earlier, in Tocoa, Honduras.

US may allow Honduran children to apply for entry

By Brian Bennett Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The White House is considering a proposal that would allow Honduran children to apply for admission to the United States as refugees or on humanitarian grounds while still in their actions of the control of the control

in their native country.
It is one of several plans under review to deter Central American kids from making the difficult and dangerous journey to the Southwest border, White House officials said Thursday, If successful, the program could be expanded to include other volatile nations, such as Guatemala and PI Sabrador.

Under the plan, children fleeing dangerous street gangs plaguing cities in Honduras, or other threats, would be interviewed by American immigration officials and temporarily sheltered in Honduras while their cases are

considered.

Supporters of the plan said it would help children who are genuinely in danger and reduce the number of minors traveling along smuggling routes through Mexico. Critics said it would only increase the number of refugees and worsen the current backlog of applications from Central America.

The idea is similar to a proposal from Arizona Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake, both Republicans, to boost the number of visas by 5,000 for young people coming from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Of the \$7,000 unaccompanied

Of the 57,000 unaccompanied minors apprehended at the Southwest border since Oct. 1, more than 45,000 have been from these three countries. Their numbers have overwhelmed social servic-

Central American leaders to gather at White House

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is summoning Central American leaders to the White House to discuss the influx of young immigrants from their countries to the U.S., hoping to show presidential action even as Congress remains deeply split over proposals to stem the crissis on the border.

The meeting comes as the administration is considering creating a pilot program giving refugee status to young people from Honduras, White House officials said Thursday. The plan would involve screening youths in their home countries to determine whether they qualify for refugee status.

Guatemalan President

Otto Perez Molina, speaking Thursday in Washington, said he hadn't heard about the plan but expected it to come up Friday. He said Central American nations have sought to pursue a unified approach. "We expect that the solution to this problem also is equal for the three countries," he said.

Besides Molina, Obama was to host Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and El Salvador's President Salvador Sanchez Ceren on Friday, the day after they met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill who are considering Obama's requests for emergency funds and additional authority to send unaccompanied children back to their home countries more quickly.

es and have created a humanitarian crisis.

The presidents of Guatemala and Honduras, who were in Washington on Thursday, said changing the U.S. immigration system would be helpful, but insufficient. If the U.S. wants to stem the tide of children illegally crossing its Southwest border, it should increase investment in Central America to improve security and

dismantle drug cartels, they said.
They met with lawmakers
on Capitol Hill before speaking
about the border crisis at the Center for Strategic and Internation-

al Studies, a Washington think tank. They are scheduled to meet with President Barack Obama on

Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez said he appreciated the attention the crisis had brought to economic conditions in Honduras, where 45 percent of the populace lives on less than \$1 per day.

But the vast majority of children are fleeing violence and crime, he said. "Where the greatest drug violence lies — that is where the most children are departing." he said.

Obama raises funds for super PACs with little transparency

By Josh Lederman The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For years, President Barack Obama railed against the surge of unlimited spending flowing into American political campaigns, arguing that average voters were being shut out of a secretive system that lets special interests bankroll elections.

Now, as Obanna enthusiastically raises money for Democratic super PACs, he's embracing some of the same secretive elements of that system, drawing charges of hypocrisy from good-governance advocates who say the public deserves to know what Obama's saying and to whom he's saying it when donors pay for a few minutes with the president.

After initially shuming super PACs, Obama in 2012 allowed his top officials to help raise money for the super PAC working to re-elect him, but his campaign promised to still "lead the way" on campaign transparency and reform. Obama took another major step toward embracing super PACs this year by agreeing to appear personally at fundraisers for Democratic super PACs. He argued that Democrats can't afford to play by different rules than Republican groups whose donors were flooding the super PACs can't afford the play the packet of the properties of

Campaign finance reform advocates hoped that even if Obama was helping super PACs, he'd seek to make the process as transparent as possible. After all, Obama has backed legislation known as the DISCLOSE Act that would clamp down on secretive contributions and has said he's open to amending the Constitution to stem campaign spending.

"I can't think of anything more devastating to the public interest," Obama said in 2010 after the Supreme Court cleared the way for unlimited political contributions. "The last thing we need to do is hand more influence to the lobbyists in Washington, or more power to the special interests to tip the outcome of elections."

When Ohama attended a fundraiser Wednesday in California for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, a party committee that must adhere to strict contribution limits, officials released the number of guests attending and how much they paid. Reporters were allowed in as Obama spoke to donors gathered in an opulent neighborhood in Los Altos Hillo.

Just hours earlier, Ohama was at a nearly hotel for a fundraiser benefiting the House Majority PAC, a super PAC that works to elect Democrats. The news media were kept out and White House declined to release any details about who showed up and how much they had contributed, making it impossible for the public to know what agenda they might be pushing during their few minutes of face time with Obama.



President Barack Obama walks Wednesday with senior adviser Valerie Jarrett as he leaves a fundraising event in Los Altos Hills,

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L. TODD SPENCER, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/A

inspect damage at Cherrystone Family Camping & RV Resort in Northampton County, Va., on Thursday after a severe storm.

Va. governor to tour storm damage

CAPE CHARLES, Va. - Flattened trees, flipped RVs, scattered tents, and awnings ripped from trailers - a scene of devastation awaited the visit of Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe the day after a tornado ripped through a campground on the Chesapeake Bay.

Two people were killed and dozens more injured by the twister, which on Thursday morning tore into the Cherrystone Family Camping and RV Resort, a 300-acre playground of swimming pools, mini-golf, pier fishing, crabbing and other activities on the state's Eastern Shore

McAuliffe was scheduled to visit with the Northampton County Sheriff's Office and local politicians before touring the damage Friday. The governor canceled a fundraiser in Aspen, Colo., for his political action committee, and a planned visit to the Colorado Springs headquarters of the United States Olympic Committee, where he had planned to lobby in favor of Washington, D.C.'s bid to host the 2024 summer Olympics, said his spokesman Brian Cov.

The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for the area about the time it struck, but many at the park said they had only a few minutes of warning.

"All hell broke loose," said Joe Colony, a Stephensville, Md., resident who has been coming to the campground for 30 years. "We got an emergency message on a cell-phone and within 30 seconds, the thing hit and it blew down 40, 50 trees in the park."

A tree fell on a tent shared by a married couple from Jersey City, N.J., killing them. Their 13-year-old son was in a neighboring tent and was severely injured. State police said he was one of 36 to be harmed in the storm, with injuries ranging from cuts and broken bones to more serious ones.

The couple killed were identified as Lord Balatbat and Lolabeth Ortega, Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said.

Luis Balatbat Jr., 47, told The Jersey Jour nal that his family was shocked to learn of the death of his brother and sister-in-law. "We are a close family, and this is very

bad for us." he said.

Lord Balatbat's father, Luis Balatbat, 78, told the newspaper that all three of the couple's children are hospitalized. He said his grandson is in a coma, his 12-year-old granddaughter suffered a leg and ear inju-ry, and his 7-year-old granddaughter was struck in the stomach by a tree limb.

The couple has been married 14 years and both were born in the Philippines, the newspaper reported.

More than 1,300 people were registered at the campground when the tornado hit. The American Red Cross was assisting displaced campers and a shelter was set up at a local high school.

Peter Glagola, spokesman for Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital, said the hospital treated more than two dozen people. One patient in critical condition was flown to VCU Medical Center in Richmond, he said. Three, including the 13-year-old boy, were transported to Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters in Norfolk.

Most at Riverside had been released by Thursday morning, according to state

Man says he shot burglar who pleaded pregnancy

The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. - An 80-year-old man who came home to find two burglars says he shot and killed one of them despite er pleas that she was pregnant, but it's her alleged accomplice who has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Police said they would present their case to prosecutors Friday but were uncertain whether to recommend charges against Tom Greer, who told a television station he shot the fleeing woman in the back.
"She says, 'Don't shoot me, I'm pregnant

I'm going to have a baby,' and I shot her anyway," Greer told KNBC-TV outside his

"The lady didn't run as fast as the man so I shot her in the back twice," Greer told the TV station

Long Beach police Chief Jim McDonnell said at a news conference Thursday that Andrea Miller, 28, did not appear to be pregnant, but an autopsy would determine whether she was

The surviving suspect, Gus Adams, 26 was arrested on suspicion of residential burglary and murder. The murder charge is possible because he is accused of being involved in a felony that led to a death, the

Both Miller and Adams, who had histories of similar crimes, were unarmed, Mc-Donnell said.

Greer had been burglarized three times before and believed the same suspects were responsible.

He said both suspects hit him with their fists and ultimately "body slamming" him to the floor, breaking his collar bone, Mc-Donnell said.

Greer managed to get to another room here he grabbed a gun and opened fire. He chased the suspects outside, where he shot Miller

McDonnell would not say whether Miller was shot in the back as Greer said.

Under California law, homeowners can defend themselves if they are in "imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death," McDonnell said. Prosecutors will have to determine whether chasing after the suspects and firing on them outside the home goes beyond self-defense.

Gunman shoots 2 at Pennsylvania hospital, doctor returns fire

The Philadelphia Inquire

DARBY, Pa. - A hospital caseworker is dead and a psychiatrist injured after a gunman opened fire inside Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Pennsylvania's Delaware County on Thursday afternoon, police said.

Officials believe the gunman opened fire in a small office, then the doctor drew his own weapon and shot the assailant, hitting him three times and critically injuring him,

said Delaware County District Attorney Jack Whelan.

The psychiatrist, 52, is expected to recover. Two sources, including one in law enforcement, identified him as Lee Silverman, a veteran doctor at the hospital.

Donald Molineux, chief of the nearby Yeadon Police Department, said the doctor without a doubt saved lives" by firing back The suspect, identified as Richard Plotts, of Upper Darby, Pa., was shot twice in the torso and once in the arm, and is undergoing surgery at the Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania.

Police were planning to interview the doctor, who works at the hospital's wellness center in Yeadon, the district attorney said.

Police said the caseworker, they did not name, was 53 and lived in Philadelphia

Police believe Plotts shot her in the face. "This is a tragic event for our hospital

and for our community, and we are praying for the safety of the victims," accordnd to a Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital statement. "We are grateful for the efforts of the emergency responders, and we are working with the Delaware County Police Departments to understand fully the details of the event and to do all we can to assist those affected.

Fast food workers say they're prepared to escalate demands for higher wages

The Associated Press

CHICAGO - Fast food worksay they're prepared to escalate their campaign for higher wages and union representation, starting with a national convention in suburban Chicago where more than 1,000 workers are expected to discuss the future of the effort that has spread to dozens of cities in less than two years.

About 1.300 workers will at-

tend sessions Friday and Saturday at an expo center in Villa Park, Ill., where they'll be asked to do "whatever it takes" to win \$15-an-hour wages and a union, said Kendall Fells, organizing director of the national effort and a representative of the Service Employees International Union.

The union has been providing financial and organizational support to the fast-food protests that

began in late 2012 in New York City and have included daylong strikes and a protest outside this year's McDonald's Corp. shareholder meeting that resulted in more than 130 arrests.



DRAWING BY ANDREY ATUCHIN/The Washington F

An artist's rendering of how the dinosaur Kulindadromeus zabaikalicus might have looked in its natural

Dinosaur feather discovery could change evolutionary understanding

By RACHEL FELTMAN
The Washington Post

It's possible that all dinosaurs had feathers. Scientists previously believed that only avian dinosaurs — that is, the direct ancestors of our modern birds — sported feathers along with their scales. But the discovery of fostilized feathers on a newly identified dinosaur far removed from the bird lineage means that feathers likely were more widespread in the dinosaur world.

The discovery, published Thursday in Science, could change scientists' understanding

of how and why feathers evolved. Several partial skeletons of the new dinosaur, called Kulindadromeus zabaikalicus, were discovered in a recent geological survey of the Kulinda Valley in Siberia. A plant-eating dinosaur that lived during the Jurassic period and only reached about five feet long, it didn't use its feathers for flying.

"It's impossible that they flew," said lead study author Pascal Godefroit, director of earth and life sciences at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. "They were bipedal and had long legs with very, very short arms."

Their feathers varied from quite primitive — structures like bristles or hair — to downy feathers much like those seen on modern birds, Godefroit and his colleagues reported. The bristles most likely served as insulation, indicating that it was warm-blooded, Godefroit said.

The more advanced feathers, which were found around the legs of the dinosaur, were probably decorative. "To us that implies that they had some kind of social life," he said, and that they used the more elaborate plumage to at-

tract mates.

This adds further weight to previous theories about feathers—that they originally evolved for something other than flight. Even after bird ancestors developed truly bird-like feathers, he said, they were gliding instead of fixing.

University of Calgary assistant

professor of geoscience Darla Zelenitsky, who wasn't involved in the study, agrees.

"This discovery suggests that feathers became a useful tool early on in dinosaur evolution, whether it was for camouflage, display or insulation," she said. Seeing feathers on a dinosaur so far removed from a bird, Zelenitsky said, suggests to her that they could have been found on most dinosaurs.

Unfortunately, scientists might never make the leap from "could have been" to a definitive answer on dinosaur feathers. "It must be proven by the discovery of fossils with preserved evidence of feathers, which is very difficult," Godefroit said.

The preservation of feathers seen in Kulindadromeus zabaikalicus, which researchers said was particularly remarkable, was a complex and lucky accident. The combination of volcanic materia and lake sediment that covered them allowed for exceptional soft tissue preservation, Godefroit tissue preservation, Godefroit

Neighbors seek legal refuge from legal marijuana

By Kristen Wyatt The Associated Press

DENVER — Pot may be legal in some states — but the neighbors don't have to like it.

Marijuana and hemp have joined wacky paint colors and unsightly fences as common neighborhood disputes facing homeowners' associations. Though a few HOAs have willingly changed their rules to accommodate for legal marijuana use or home-growing, many more are banning home pot smoking.

Homeowners' associations can't ban members from using marijuana in their homes when it's legal. But if neighbors can see or smell weed, the law is clear — HOAs have every right to regulate the drug as a nuisance, or a threat to children along the lines of a swimming pool with no fence.

"The fact that people may be legally entitled to snoke doesn't mean they can do it wherever they want, any more than they could walk into a restaurant and light up a cigarette," said Richard Thompson, who owns a management consulting company that specializes in condominium and homeowner associations.

Thompson said his home condo development in Portland, Ore., is a prime example of how marijuana's growing acceptance has sparked neighbor conflicts.

"As soon as spring and summer come around, we hear complaints about marijuana smoke because people are out on their patios and they have the windows down," he

It's not clear how many homeowners' associations have confronted marjuana conflicts in the 23 states with some form of legal marijuana. But lawyers who specialize in HOA disputes, as well as a Colorado regulatory agency that advises HOAs, saw there are growing conflicts among neighbors who want to smoke pot and others who don't want to see it or smell it.

"What we're really seeing more now is regulating the associations' common areas," such as smoke wafting onto playgrounds or others' porches, said Erin Mc-Manis, an attorney in Phoenix whose firm represents hundreds of Arizona HOAs.

The Carrillo Ranch homeowners association in Chandler, Ariz., earlier this year took the rare step of withdrawing a proposed ban on residents smoking medical marijuana in their front and backyards and on their patios.

The HOA planned a meeting on the topic in March, but withdrew the proposal after many residents opposed the ban as too harsh.

This is a personal-freedom issue where people were going to dictate how other people should live," Carrillo Ranch resident Tom LaBonte told The (Arizona) Republic in February, when the HOA dropped its proposal.

Smoke isn't the only neighbor complaint posed by loosening marijuana laws. Growing pot and hemp is prompting neighbor disputes, too.

A suburban Denver retiree learned the hard way this spring that he needed neighbors' permission before growing hermily plin Denny, of Brighton, Colo, learned about marijuana's non-intoxicating cousin and decided to try the crop on a 75-by-100-foot plot in his yard.

But Denny's hemp plot ran afoul of his homeowners' association, which ruled the hemp experiment unacceptable.

"As soon as they heard about it, they said, 'We're not going to let anyone grow marijuana here,'" Denny said. "I explained to them that hemp is not marijuana, but they were dead-set against it."

Flaws found in basis of funding for Colo. gun control

The Associated Press

DENVER — A law expanding background check requirements on Colorado gun sales has been in effect for about a year, and an Associated Press analysis of state data compiled during that span shows the projected impact was vastly overstated in a key budget report.

The discovery has prompted a prominent Democratic lawmaker to question whether the Legislature misallocated millions of taxpayer dollars based on the flawed estimate, which has provided an opportunity for Republicans to resume attacks over regulation that already has come at ereat

political cost to Colorado liberals.

Democrats pushed the proposal into law last year as part of a package of gun restrictions meant to improve safety after devastating mass shootings. Lawmakers drafting the background check requirement, aimed at keeping firearms away from those with a criminal history, relied on information from a non-partisan research arm of the Legislature that predicted about 420,000 new reviews over the first two years. Accordingly, they budgeted about \$3 million to the agency that conducts the checks to handle the anticipated surge of work.

But after a year of operating under the new system, Colorado Bureau of Investigations officials have performed only about 13,600 reviews considered a result of the new law — about 7 percent of the estimated first year total.

"I'm not discouraged by the lower number," said Democratic Rep. Rhonda Fields, who sponsored the legislation.

Still, Fields acknowledged, "I'm going to be asking some questions because I want to be a good steward of our tax dollars."

For Republicans, it provides evidence that a plan they opposed from the start was an unnecessary attack on the rights of gun owners and bolsters the conservative efforts that recalled two Democratic state senators and prompted a third to resign.



RENNAN LINSLEY/A

Guns for sale at Dragonman's, near Colorado Springs, Colo.

UKRAINE UNREST

Ukrainian troops struggle on Russian border

By MATTHEW SCHOFIELD AND NANCY A. YOUSSEF McClatchy Foreign Staff

KIEV. Ukraine - Three Ukrainian border guard brigades were said to be close to eating grass to survive, running out of ammunition and food, trapped on the eastern edge of their country between Russian separatists to their west and fire coming in from Russia to

It's a siege that began July 11 as the troops tried to protect the Ukrainian border with Russia near Zelenopolye. The first night, 23 Ukrainian troops died, 93 were wounded badly, and while they've managed to evacuate 75 of the wounded and reinforcements arrived Thursday, the struggle on the border points out a single truth of this allegedly internal war in the so-called Donhas region: If there is to be victory in Ukraine's months-old civil war in the southeast, it will begin along the Russian border.
Ukrainian and U.S. officials in-

sist Russia has an established and continuing supply and resupply of weapons and experienced troops and advisers flowing in to help the pro-Russian separatists.

And the United States said Thursday that it had evidence that Russia is launching artillery fire across its border and providing heavier rocket launchers into Ukraine, in what Pentagon officials described as a "clear escalation" of the conflict.

"We have new evidence that the Russians intend to deliver heavier and more powerful multiple rocket launchers to the separatist forces in Ukraine, and have evidence that Russia is firing artil-lery from within Russia to attack Ukrainian military formations, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters at the

department's daily briefing.

Ukrainians say the fight against that resupply will have to focus on villages such as Izvarino and Dolzhanskaya and Chervonopartyzansk, places that usually are barely considered but in this

conflict are central to any chance of Ukrainian victory.

The network of paved and unpayed roads in and around these border villages forms the backbone of the supply lines from Russia to the pro-Russian separatists. Or, put in an American historical context, these spots are essential to the Ho Chi Minh Trail of the Ukrainian conflict.

Col. Andriy Lysenko, spokes-man for the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council, noted that in this area, "the attacks are almost continuous."

He also noted that the fire from Russia creates a danger-ous dilemma for the Ukrainian military. The fire puts them in danger, but returning fire would legitimize Russian troops moving into the region openly and in large numbers.

Thus far, the Ukrainians had maintained a delicate balance. Lysenko said. The most noted piece of heavy equipment alleged to have rolled into this conflict from Russia is the Buk anti-aircraft system allegedly used by separatists to take down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which resulted in 298 deaths.

But Ukrainian military officials and experts note that the supply of weapons goes far beyond one anti-aircraft system.

Lysenko said the supply of light arms and ammunition being used by the separatists to fight against Ukrainian troops is "enormous."

The tanks, armored personnel carriers and anti-aircraft weap ons, including Buk and MAN-PADS, were substantial, he said.

Ukrainian forces had increased shelling on several border crossings, Lysenko said, and had been able to slow the flow of arms, for a few days at least. He said the slowed flow of weapons had an almost immediate effect on the

But other military officials disagreed with the notion that the Russian weapons resupply had decreased.

Anton Gerashchenko, when asked Wednesday if the supply

lines had been disrupted, pulled out a cellphone showing a steady stream of updates, such as the one noting that around 10 a.m. Ukrainian witnesses saw five new tanks and other equipment crossing the border.

We thought perhaps the tragedy of Flight MH17 would cause them to pause the weapons flow, but that has not been the case, he said.

Oleksiy Melnyk, co-director for security at the Ukrainian think tank Razumkov Centre, said the on-the-ground reality created by the flow of weapons from Russia is that "the Russian separatists are better armed than the Ukrainian military."

He added that Ukraine could not hope to stand toe to toe in a proxy war with Russia, and therefore would have to rely on the administration of Russian President Vladimir Putin deciding to stop a policy of aggression in the region

Firing: US says Russians moving rockets toward border

FROM FRONT PAGE

Warren said he was not aware of any Ukrainians shooting artillery into Russia.

While both countries have swapped such accusations before, the latest allegations come as the pro-Russian rebel stronghold of Donetsk, less than 60 miles from the Russian border, awaits a possible onslaught by Ukrainian government forces.

The July 17 downing of Malaysian Air Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine, killing 298 passengers and crew, has dashed at least temporarily any chances of a de-escalation in the struggle between the rebels and the government in Kiev. Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing intense pressure to expedite the investigation into the crash, which the United States says was probably caused

by a Russian-supplied missile.

As Ukraine pushed forward with its ground offensive to regain territory lost to the rebels, separatist leader Alexander Borodai said he's preparing for block-to-block fighting to defend Donetsk.

"We will stand till the end," Borodai, the prime minister of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, said in an interview Thursday. "If the Ukrainians start an offensive, it will become a second Stalingrad," he said, referring to the World War II battle that claimed almost 2 million Soviet and German lives

On Friday, Warren said that the Russians are about to increase the separatists' firepower.

"We have indications that the Russians intend to supply heavier and more sophisticated multiplelaunch rocket systems [to Ukrainian rebelsl in the very near

future," Warren told reporters. U.S. intelligence indicates that the rockets are getting closer to the Russia-Ukraine border, according to Warren.

The U.S. believes the transfer is "imminent" and could happen as early as Friday, Warren said.

"We believe that they are able to transfer this equipment at any time, at any moment," Warren said, "We're very concerned with the quantity and the capability of weapons flowing from Russia into the Ukrainian separatists hands.'

Other disturbing news from eastern Ukraine on Friday included a report from Human Rights Watch about a mass grave containing at least eight bodies that the organization reported had been unearthed Thursday near the city morgue in the town of Slovyansk. Slovyansk was freed from rebel control July 5.

Human Rights Watch research Yulia Gorbunova said on the organization's website that "it's too soon to say whether the people buried there were victims of a crime" She said residents told her men in cam-ouflage arrived in a truck and buried the bodies on June 11. Those who came to the site as it was un-earthed included people with relatives who went missing while insurgents held the town. HRW says insurgents have kidnapped and tortured people they suspect of supporting the government.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper and The Associated Press contributed to this story.



VADIM GHIRDA/AF

Show of support

A man with the Ukrainian flag on his shoulders photographs pictures of victims of the MH17 air crash before a memorial concert Thursday in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Dutch, Australians ready to secure site

KHARKIV, Ukraine - A small group of Dutch and Australian investigators walked the sprawling. unsecured site where Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 went down as their governments prepared police detachments they hope can help protect the crash area and help bring the last of the victims

The Dutch government said 40 unarmed military police were

leaving the Netherlands late Friday for eastern Ukraine to help investigators, while Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has said his government is close to a deal to send police. Australia has 90 federal police officers standing

by in Europe. The Boeing 777 went down July 17 as it headed to Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam, killing all 298 people on board. U.S. and Ukrainian officials say it was shot down, likely by mistake, by a missile

fired from rebel-held territory in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists are fighting Ukrainian government forces.

Of the dead, 194 were Dutch cit-izens and 37 were Australian citizens or residents. Both countries governments have expressed a determination to see the dead brought home and the accident investigated. Security concerns and rebel interference have delayed recovery of the bodies and limited investigators' access to the site.

CRISIS IN IRAQ

Iraq cleric prods leaders to embrace change

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's most influential Shittle cleric made a thinly veiled appeal to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to step down, calling upon political leaders Friday not to "cling" to their posts at the expense of political stability as lawmakers struggle to form a new government that can tackle rising violence in the

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani's comments, relayed by a representative during prayers in the Shite holy city of Karbala, came a day after Iraq's parliament named a veteran Kurdish politician as president. The new president, Fouad Massoum, now has the important task of selecting a candidate for prime minister, who must then try to form a government.

Al-Maliki, who has led the country since 2006, is fighting for a third term. His political bloc won the most seats in April par-liamentary elections but failed to get a majority and so needs to build a coalition in order to government that can draw Sunni support away from the insurgency. But Sunnis have long accused al-Maliki of marginalizing their community, and even many of his Shiite and Kurdish allies say he has monopolized nower.

Al-Sistani did not name specific leaders. Last month, however, the cleric called on al-Maliki to step aside, according to a senior member of a prominent Shitte family that has for decades maintained regular contact with al-Sistani.

"The gravity of the phase Iraq is undergoing requires the



di Mizban/AP

Iraqis pause Friday at the site of a car bomb attack near a restaurant in Karradah, Iraq. Police officials say a double car bombing on Thursday night killed and wounded scores of people in the neighborhood.

concerned parties to bear their mational responsibilities, when the posts," al-Sistant's spokens and Abdul-Mahdi al-Karbalaie said in his sermon. "This government..." should enjoy broad national acceptance so that it will be about the fact the current challenges, correct the many mistakes of the past, and unite the people in order to combat terrorism."

Iraq is facing its worst crisis since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. troops following the blitz launched last month by the al-Qaida breakaway Islamic State group that began in the north with the capture of Iraq's second-largest city of Mosul on June 10.

The militants had shown a measure of restraint in the initial meeks of controlling the mainly Sunni city in a bid to maintain support of the residents who had been long frustrated by mistreatment at the hands of the Shitteled government. But signs are beginning to emerge of efforts to impose a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

lamic law. The Islamic militants Thursday blew up a revered Muslim shrine in Mosul traditionally said to be the burial place of the Prophet Jonah, several residents of the city told The Associated Press.

city tool The Associated Fress.

The militants first ordered everyone out of the Mosque of the Prophet Younis, or Jonah, then blew it up, the residents said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear for their own safety. Several nearby houses were also damaged by the blast, they said.

The mosque was built on an archaeological site dating back to 8th century B.C. and is said to

be the burial place of the prophet, who in stories from both the Bible and Quran is swallowed by a whale. It was renovated in the 1990s under Iraq's late dictator Saddam Hussein and until the June militant blitz, remained a popular destination for religious pligrims from around the world.

On Friday, the militants ordender women in Mosul to cover their faces in public and wear loose, modest clothing. Local residents described a banner with the rules posted on the wall of the Heibat Khatoun mosque. The sign also instructed women to avoid clothing with patterns or bright colors.

The militant group also distributed a statement to tailors and shops that sell or make women's clothes informing them of their newly imposed dress code, shopkeepers told The Associated Press.

The shopkeepers and residents spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears of reprisals from the militants.

Violence also continued on Friday, with a car bomb exploded outside a mosque near the northern city of krikuk as Shiite worshippers were leaving after prayer services, killing eight people and wounding another 24, according to police and hospital officials.

Mortar shells also slammed into houses in Taji, about 12 miles north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding seven others, officials

The officials provided the information on condition they not be identified because they were not authorized to brief the media.

US has been tracking Islamic State militants for months

By Jonathan S. Landay McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Like the rest of the world, the U.S. government appeared to have been taken aback last month when Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, fell to an offensive by jihadis of the Islamic State that triggered the collapse of five Iraqi army divisions and carried the extremists to the threshold of Baghdad.

A review of the record shows, however, that the Obama administration wasn't surprised at all.

In congressional testimony as far back as November, U.S. diplomats and intelligence officials made clear that the United States had been closely tracking the al-Qaida spinoff since 2012, when it enlarged its operations from Iraq to civil war-torn Syria, seized an oil-rich province there and signed up thousands of foreign fighters who'd infiltrated Syria through NATO ally Turkey.

The testimony, which received little news media attention at the time, also showed that Obama administration officials were well aware of the group's declared intention to turn its Syrian sanctuary into a springboard from which it would send men and materiel back into Iraq and unleash waves of suicide bombings there. And they knew that the Iraqi security forces couldn't handle it.

The group's operations "are calculated,

Testimony last year show that Obama administration officials were aware of the Islamic State's declared intention to send men and materiel into Iraq and unleash waves of bombings there.

coordinated and part of a strategic campaign led by its Syria-based leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghadi," Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Brett McGurt kold a House committee on Feb. 5, four months before fighting broke out in Mosul. "The campaign has a stated objective to cause the collapse of the Iraqi state and carve out a zone of governing control in western regions of Iraq and Syria."

The testimony raises an obvious question: If the Obama administration had such early warning of the Islamic State's ambitions, why, nearly two months after the fall of Mosul, is it still assessing what steps, if any, to take to hall the advance of Islamist extremists who threaten U.S. allies in the region and have vowed to attack Americans?

gion and nave vowed to attack Americans?
"What started as a crisis in Syria has become a regional disaster with serious global implications," Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif.,
the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs

Committee, said Wednesday.

Yet Defense Department officials say they might not complete work on proposed options for U.S. actions until the middle of August, a lifetime in a region where every day brings word of another town or village falling to the Islamic State. Some lawmakers and experts say the delay borders on diplomatic malpractice. "We did see this coming," said Royce,

"We did see this coming," said Royce, adding that Iraqi officials and some diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad began urging the administration in August 2013 to launch U.S. drone strikes against Islamic State bases near Iraq's border with Svria.

"This was a very clear case in which the U.S. knew what was going on but followed a policy of deliberate neglect," said Vali Nasr, the dean of Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and a former State Department adviser on the Middle East

"This miscalculation essentially has helped realize the worst nightmare for this administration, an administration that prided itself on its counterterrorism strategy," said Nasr.

Administration officials deny the charges of inaction. U.S. policy, they contend, was aimed at helping the Iraqi government

deal with the growing threat.

gitimacy to rule and must go.

"That was also the desire of the Iraqi government. The Iraqi government wanted to act on its own with our assistance," McGurk told Congress this week. He insisted that Baghdad didn't formally request U.S. airstrikes until May.

The situation, however, was far beyond the Iraqi government's ability to cope.

One complicating factor was the administration's approach to Syria and the uprising there to topple President Bashar Assad, a goal President Barack Obama adopted as America's own in an August 2011 statement that said Assad had lost all le-

"This crisis was allowed to fester and get worse in many ways due to inaction against Assad and ISIS," said Phillip Smyth, a Middle East researcher at the University of Maryland.

A review of the record shows, however, that support for the anti-Assad movement also hampered U.S. action to quash the Islamic State, which until earlier this year rebels considered an ally in the push to tomple Assad.

topple Assaid.
What is indisputable, Smyth said, is that the White House became immobilized by the complexity of the crisis: Having declared that Assad had to go, it found that there was no opposition group that didn't have some ties to jihadists, and actively backing the rebels would put the United States on the same side as al-Oaida.

WORLD

Israel kills senior Gaza militant, mulls next move

By DANIEL ESTRIN AND IBRAHIM BARZAK

JERUSALEM — Israeli air-raft struck 30 houses in the Gaza Strip early Friday, killing a leader of the militant Islamic Jihad group and two of his sons, as Israel's Security Cabinet was to decide whether to expand its operation or to consider ideas for a cease-fire.

Israeli ground troops and Hamas gunmen fought intense battles in the north and center of the territory, Palestinian officials said.

The Israeli military said it hit 45 sites in Gaza, including what it said was a Hamas military command post, while Gaza militants continued to fire dozens of rockets at Israel, with one hitting an empty house.

On the 18th day of fighting, Israel's Security Cabinet was to convene later Friday to consider international cease-fire proposals, an Israeli defense official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deliberations were taking place behind closed doors.

One plan calls for a five-day humanitarian truce during which Israel and Hamas would negotiate new border arrangements for blockaded Gaza, said Hana Amireh, a senior Palestine Libraration Organization official in the West Bank, who is involved in cease-fire efforts.

Hamas has said it will not halt fire without international guarantees that Egypt and Israel will open Gaza's border crossings and end their seven-year-old blockade. Israel and Egypt are reluctant to ease the blockade, fearing this will enable Hamas to tighten its grip on Gaza.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal has 'put so many preconditions on a ceasefire so as to make it impossible."

Israeli media reported that the military also wants more time to continue destroying rocket sites and tunnels from Gaza into Israel, which Hamas has used to launch attacks. The military said it has found 31 tunnels but only destroyed about one-third of them so far. Israel has mobilized over 65,000 reserve forces during the fighting.

In Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians protested in the traditionally Arab east of the city after Muslim noon prayers, and a dozen protesters threw rocks and fireworks at Israeli police, who fired stun grenades and water cannons. Thousands of Israel iscurity forces had been deployed for possible Palestinian protests. Four Palestinians were shot

Four Palestinians were shot and killed Friday during West Bank protests, Palestinian hospital officials said.

The circumstances of the shootings in the northern village of Hawara, near the city of Nablus, and the southern village of Beit Omar, near the city of Hebron, were not immediately clear.

Clashes between Israeli troops and protesters were reported in



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Palestinian Issam Al Terry, 52, center, sits Friday in Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza Strip, with sons Muhammed, 14, left, and Abdullah, 18, who were wounded in an Israeli strike on Wednesday.

both locations. The Israeli military had no immediate comment.

The night before, thousands of Palestinians protesting the Gaza fighting clashed with Israeli security forces in the West Bank and in east Jerusalem in one of the biggest protests in the territory in years. One Palestinian was killed and dozens were wounded, according to Palestinian medical officials.

In Gaza, the Palestinian death toll reached 828, after 115 were killed on Thursday in one of the deadliest days of fighting, said Ashraf al-Kidra, a Palestinian health official. More than 5,200 Palestinians have been wounded since July 8 he said.

During the same period, 35 Israelis, among them 33 soldiers, and a Thai worker were killed. Included in the count is an Israeli reservist killed Friday, the army said. Early Friday, Israeli warplanes struck 30 houses throughout the Gaza Strip, including the home of Salah Hassanein, a leader of the military wing of Islamic Jihad, the second-largest militant group in Gaza after Hamas.

Hassanein and two of his sons were killed in the airstrike, said Gaza police spokesman Ayman Batniji and al-Kidra. The Israeli army confirmed the strike.

During the past two weeks, Israeli aircraft have repeatedly hit homes of Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders. Most had gone into hiding, but the strikes killed a leader of an Islamic Jihad rocket squad, a Hamas commander and a son of senior Hamas leader Khalil al-Haya, according to the Israeli militrae.

Such strikes have also claimed the lives of a large number of civilians. A Gaza human rights group said earlier this week that close to 500 homes have been damaged or destroyed in direct hits from the air, and that more than 320 people have been killed in their homes as a result of military strikes.

Germany's two largest airlines said they are not yet resuming flights to Israel even though the European Aviation Safety Agency has lifted a recommendation that airlines refrain from flying to Tel Aviv.

to Tel Aviv.

Air Berlin says flights to Tel
Aviv remain suspended at least
through midday Friday, while
Lufthansa says all Friday flights
to the airport have been canceled
because of ongoing security concerns after a Gaza rocket landed
about a mile away from Israel's
international airport.

Lufthansa's cancellations apply to subsidiaries Germanwings, Austrian Airlines, Swiss and Brussels Airlines as well.

Taiwan plane survivor crawls out, phones dad

By Johnson Lai and Christopher Bodeen The Associated Press

XIXI, Taiwan — The 10 survivors of Taiwan's worst air disaster in more than a decade include a 34-year-old woman who called her father after scrambling from the wreckage and seeking help at a nearby home.

Hung Yu-ting escaped through a hole in the fuselage that opened up after the plane plowed into homes Wednesday while attempting to land on the outlying resort island of Penghu, killing 48

people.
"She called me on the phone to say the plane had crashed and exploded but that she had already crawled out and I should come right away to get her," said Hung's father, Hung Chang-ming, who

lives just a few hundred yards from the crash site.

Hung rushed to the scene, but his daughter already had been taken away by rescuers.

"When I was halfway there, the fire was still really big, but it was smaller when I arrived on the scene," Hung told reporters. "There were two other injured outside and the first ambulance had already taken away three, in-

cluding my daughter."
Hung Chang-ming joined rescuers and other residents in putting out the fire and rescuing other survivors before going to the hospital to check on his daughter.

Hung Yu-ting was recovering Friday from burns to her arms, legs and back suffered during her escape. The condition of the other survivors wasn't immediately known.

Black box found at Air Algerie crash site

By ELAINE GANLEY AND SYLVIE CORBET The Associated Press

PARIS — French soldiers secured a black box from the Air Algerie wreckage site in a deso-late region of restive northern Mali on Friday, the French president said. Terrorism hasn't been ruled out as a cause, although officials say the most likely reason for the catastrophe that killed all onboard is bad weather.

At least 116 people were killed in Thursday's disaster, nearly half of whom were French. President Francois Hollande put the number of victims at 118, a discrepancy that couldn't be immediately clarified.

One of two black boxes was recovered from the wreckage in the Gossi region of Mali near the border with Burkina Faso, and was taken to the northern city of Gao, where a French contingent is based, Hollande told reporters after an emergency meeting with government ministers. "There are, alas, no survivors,"

"There are, alas, no survivors," Hollande said. "I share the pain of families living through this terrible ordeal."

A team of French air accident investigators was being sent to Mali, he said.

Air Algerie and private Spanish airline Swiftair, which was operating Flight 5017, said Thursday there were 116 people onboard.

French television showed images of the crash site scene taken by a soldier from Burkina Faso. The brief footage showed a deso-late area with scattered debris that was unrecognizable. There were bits of twisted metal but no identifiable parts such as the fuselage or tail, or victims' bodies. Scrubby vegetation could be seen scattered in the background.

Burkina soldiers were reportedly the first to reach the site, apparently Thursday evening, and the images were viewed at the Burkina Faso crisis center.

Gen. Gilbert Diendere, a close aide to Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore and head of the crisis committee set up to investigate the disaster, said of the footage: "People expected to see an airplane stifting somewhere, and unfortunately it was debris scattered over 500 meters (about 550 yards), which made the search of the area very very difficult."

Burkina Faso Prime Minister Luc Adolphe Tiao reviewed videos of the wreckage site and said identifying the victims will be

challenging.
"It will be difficult to reconstitute the bodies of the victims," Tiao said at a news conference. "The human remains are so scattered."

A French Reaper drone based in Niger initially spotted the wreckage, French Transport Minister Frederic Cuvillier told France-Info radio on Friday.

WORLD



PHOTOS BY KAMRAN JEBREILI/AP

Tourists and residents cross the creek that cuts through the heart of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on a traditional abra, or taxi boat. The passage costs 25 cents.

At the heart of a changed city

Left untouched by developers, creek offers a glimpse into Dubai's modest beginnings

By Kamran Jebreili The Associated Press

United Arab Emirates eneath a glitzy skyline, wooden boats ply Dubai Creek, the historic heart of a city that was transformed in little more than a generation from a tiny pearling and fishing port to a global trading but

From early morning to late evening the creek is abuze with daily commuters and tourists riding in abras, the wooden boats that have been used for more than a century and are still built by hand nearby. The 25-cent passage from one bank to the other is one of the only bargains left in a city where much of the population is expatriates lured to the Gulf emirate by job opportunities.

opportunities.
Unlike the rest of the city, the Unbiai Creek area has until now been left relatively untouched by developers, offering a glimpse into the modest beginnings of a city that is now a byword for wealth, excess and overnight development.

"The creek is very much the heart of the city, physically and metaphorically," said Yasser Elsheshtawy, associate professor of architecture at the United Arab Emirates University. "You know, that's really where everything started."

The city is awaiting the results of a bid for Dubai Creek to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a S-84 million creeksite project has been approved by Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, VaE vice president and prime minister and ruler of Dubai, that aims to transform the area into a cultural and artistic hub for the city.



Trading dhows that are used for loading goods dock at Dubai Creek



An Asian laborer carries imported goods to a dhow at the creek.



Tourists walk at the Gold Souq in the heart of Dubai's commercial business district.



People watch the Dubai Fountain, where a man-made lake lapping at the world's tallest building comes to life every evening. More than 6,600 lights illuminate powerful jets of water that seem to dance to an eclectic mix of music.

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For better or worse, the Dutch are more comfortable with meetings and remembrances than with calls to arms.

Understanding the Dutch's muted response

By Russell Shorto

six mv vears Amsterdam, one thing I never quite understood was the Dutch attitude toward celebrities. They are passionate about local celebrities — far more than about, say, Hollywood stars but in the midst of intensely gossiping about a homegrown film or sports person-ality, they will suddenly turn blase, as if the celeb were a mere family member who had become uppity.

The explanation is in the size of the na tion. When you've got a total population of 16 million crammed into a country smaller than 41 of our states, everyone is within a couple of degrees of separation of every-one else. Wesley Sneijder, Robin van Persie and the other stars of the country's World Cup team are brought down to Earth by the fact that, chances are, you know them,

or your uncle does.

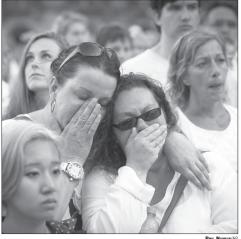
That thought came to mind as I've watched somber memorials unfold like dreams in cities all over the country this week. Roughly two-thirds of the 298 people who died on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 were Dutch. I asked several Dutch friends how they were doing. As I more or less expected, every one of them knew at least one person who was on the plane. One, who lives in The Hague, said her daughter was friends with a girl whose entire family was on the flight: they were going on vacation "They were in primary school together and took the same ballet lessons. my friend said of her daughter and the girl who died. "When you think of their empty house, it is all very unreal.

A few people want to lash out, saying the country should strike out against Russia Someone posted the address of Vladimir Putin's daughter, who lives in the Netherlands, on the Facebook page of the Neth-erlands-Russia Center. There are some vicious tweets

But in the main the reaction to the sudden loss of a cross-section of Dutch society the proportionate loss of life for a country the size of the United States would be about 6,000 people — has been muted. Even the idea of a national day of mourning, floated by a politician or two, hasn't taken hold. It as already happening in a natural, non official way. A mountain of flowers in front of a restaurant in Rotterdam. A pall of silence descending on the "Roze Kermis" gay festival in Tilburg. The deaths were evenly spread all over the country, and the memorials are localized

The Dutch are strikingly different from Americans in their gut reactions to things. When hit with a national shock. Americans will almost instinctively reach for ideology or ideals. People saw the 9/11 attacks as an assault on "freedom." The Dutch have an innate distrust of ideology. You could relate that to World War II and their experience under Nazism, but it goes much farther back. It has something to do with being a small country surrounded by larger countries that have had long histories of asserting themselves

It also stems from the fact that Dutch so ciety grew not out of war against a human foe but out of the struggle against nature.



People attend a silent march of remembrance in Amsterdam on Wednesday, the day the first bodies of passengers and crew killed in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 arrived in the Netherlands from Ukraine.

Living in low lands on a vast river delta, the Dutch came together to battle water. Building dams and dikes and canals was more practical than ideological. For better or worse, the Dutch are more comfortable with meetings and remembrances than

with calls to arms. Geography has defined destiny through out Dutch history. The little country has reached outward, and prospered thanks to its ability to trade and engage with others; it also has proven a haven for refugees from less tolerant lands. Even before its 17th-century golden age, Holland had become an intensely polyglot hub for goods and ideas, intricately connected with farflung places.

Flight 17 reflects and updates that history. Of course, by definition, the plane was packed with travelers. But this tragedy gives an inadvertent indication of how racially mixed the country has become Among the Dutch passengers listed on the flight manifest were a Vietnamese family that lived in Delft, the city of Vermeer; a Chinese couple from Rotterdam; a Dutch-Israeli student; a Dutch-Malaysian family; a Dutch-American; people born in Curacao and South Africa; and others with German, Indonesian and British backgrounds

We hear about the growing multieth-nicity of the country mostly through the screeching of right-wing fanatic Geert Wilders, the leader of the Party for Freedom and a member of parliament, who riles up some elements of society by declaring that newcomers (read Muslims) are torpedoing Dutch traditions and turning the land of windmills into a giant mosque. The international media is a sucker for Wilders ise he seems to give the lie to what the Dutch are most famous for (besides tulips and marijuana cafes): tolerance. The Dutch pioneered the concept in the 16th century, enshrining it in their de facto constitution two centuries before "all men are created equal." America's own founding fathers were deeply influenced by the Dutch com-mitment to fostering a heterogeneous, freewheeling society — a commitment al-ready introduced into North America via the Dutch colony of New York.

Wilders knows that the media always glom onto a counter-narrative, and he has used that fact repeatedly to his own advantage and to the detriment of his country's image abroad. But the truth revealed by this tragedy is that the country is quietly becoming a melting pot, a place intricately connected to other parts of the world. The Dutch people who died on Flight 17 mirror their own rapidly evolving society, and remind the rest of us that our futures don't lie in tribalism, but in expanding our connections.

Russell Shorto is author of "Amsterdam: A History of the World's Most Liberal City." This piece, which first appeared in The Washington Post, was written in partnership with Zocalo Public Square.

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OPINION

Kerry deals with crises from all directions

By DAVID IGNATIUS

he world has been so chaotic lately that it was easy to overlook two U.S. diplomatic maneuvers — in-Afghanistan and Iran — that avoided what could have been dangerous ruptures.

The architect of these two agreements was Secretary of State John Kerry, who these days seems to be in constant airborne mediation mode. In calmer times, Kerry would have made front-page headlines with his power-sharing pact in Afghanistan that defused talk of a possible civil war there, and with his agreement to extend the delicate tranian nuclear talks until November.

With the catastrophic violence in Gaza and Ukraine, these developments were barely noticed. Kerry himself raced off to Cairo and Tel Aviv this week to chase an Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire. He also continues his regular, largely fruitless, conversations with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov about Ukraine. Kerry has yet to demonstrate, in any of these crises, that he can achieve more than temporary political fixes or extensions of interim agreements. But the intensity of his effort is admirable.

The Afghanistan and Iran deals, though little discussed, are worth a closer look. They challenge the conventional wisdom about security problems in those two countries. In both cases, American diplomatic pressure has so far averted what many analysts were predicting a year ago could pose new security threats for the U.S. Both crises could still return with a vengeance, but U.S.-led diplomacy has had some traction.

The surprise about Afghanistan is that the June runoff election to succeed President Hamid Karzai has produced a powersharing agreement between the apparent winner, Ashraf Ghani, an ethnic Pashtun, and Abdullah Abdullah, a Tajik.



MAIDI MOHAMMED

Secretary of State John Kerry, right, and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat arrive to a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank on Wednesday.

Abdullah, who had polled the most votes in the first round, screamed fraud when the official count reported that he had lost the runoff by a roughly 56-44 percent margin. His allies warned that they would mobilize Tajik militias for a renewed Afghan civil war. Some Afghan analysts had been predicting such a return to walrordism ever since President Barack Obama decided to withdraw U.S. combat troops.

But, wonder of wonders, civil strife hasn't engulfed Afghanistan. Security is shaky, and Afghan forces struggle daily to keep the Taliban at bay. But the country hasn't cracked. Ghani and Abdullah both endorse the bilateral security agreement negotiated with the U.S., which will provide a continuing American military presence, at least through the end of 2016. Karzai had refused to approve the pact, but it's likely to be signed quickly after the recount is finished in September. Kerry's unity deal came when Ghani

Kerry's unity oeal came when Gham and Abdullah agreed to a full audit of the election results, and Ghani offered his rival a significant role as a quasi-prime minister. Ghani also plans, as he put it in a campaign manifest, of enter into a dialogue with the armed opposition" when he takes office.

Ghani told me in a telephone interview last week that he and Abdullah have agreed on a program of outreach to political and business leaders. His plans for an inclusive national government assume that Afghan security forces, numbering about 340,000, can operate effectively as the U.S. withdraws support. That's a big "if," especially in providing logistics for such a big army, but so far the Afghans have held their ground.

Kerry's agreement to extend the nuclear talks with Iran for another four months is harder to assess. In the run-up to the July 20 expiration of the interim agreement, U.S. officials had seemed doubtful that the Iranians would offer enough concessions to warrant a rollover. But in the final days, the Iranians appear to have shown flexibility and creativity on several key issues.

The areas where Iranian negotiators are said to have signaled willingness to compromise include: reconfiguring their planned reactor at Arak so it won't produce plutonium for a bomb; converting their hardened facility at Fordow so it is verifiably for peaceful uses; addressing so-called "possible military dimensions" of their nuclear activities; and limiting their stockpile of enriched uranium.

The big gap between Iran and the PS+1 negotiating group is the number of centrifuges Iran claims it needs for a peaceful nuclear program. On this, Kerry appears to have made little progress in his meetings a week ago with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif. The number of centrifuges seems to be the deal-maker, or headers.

Critics might argue that Kerry's negotiations with Afghan and Iranian officials have produced little more than agreements that "kick the can down the road." But in such a turbulent world, there are worse things than buying some time in hopes of an eventual breakthrough.

David Ignatius is a member of

Teacher educated in the ways of for-profit colleges

By NINA M. FLORES

t happened the same way that anyone falls in love: the slow build of excitement, the sheer anticipation of each day propelling you forward, the blind haze of overwhelming joy clouding all reason and logic.

I developed a passion for teaching at a for-profit school in Southern California, and it was exhilarating. My students were inquisitive, thoughtful, and eager to share their ideas. Many were first-generation Americans, and many more were the first in their families to attend college.

But, as it happens, the haze of new love soon lifted.

My students began opening up to me about the incredible amounts of debt they were incurring. For some, this was tens of thousands of dollars each year I couldn't wrap my head around the fact that the cost of my bachelor's degree and two master's degrees from public schools was adding up to less than half the cost of their bachelor's degrees in business administration, criminal iustice or eraphic design.

The realization was uncomfortable: I was a part of a business relying on the exploitation of college dreams for money. I won't name my former employer here. It's not worth any potential retribution from system leaders that could affect my ability to get jobs in education and continue working to improve the system. This story.

is not isolated to one campus. Students are exploited through the for-profit education industry at hundreds of online and on-theground campuses every day.

Initially, I deflected students' inquiries and in the cost of my own education. But I knew slience helped no one. As a faculty member, I saw two options: continue supporting the status quo, or take steps to help my students empower themselves. So I began sharing education options with them, and the reality that education doesn't have to come at this price.

When students approached me with concerns about paying for school, I spoke openly and honestly about the cost of education at different institutions. I pulled up Web sites for public colleges and said, "Let's sit down and see how much it is for you to go to school there." When students came to me interested in less-expensive degrees at city colleges or the state university system, we went through the pros and cons of each program together. I reviewed fearning and consideration of the control of t

I encouraged them to explore their options. These were their questions, their decisions, and it was their right to consider education beyond the for-profit system. Some transferred, or at least tried to.

Some transferred, or at least tried to.

Most students found that the units they accrued would not transfer to local community colleges or state universities. In one
case, as an extra measure, a student asked

me to write letters to accompany each class syllabus in hopes of securing course equivalencies at another school. After weighing his options, another student transferred despite leaving completed units behind.

Still others decided to stay. For them, for all my students, I put everything I had into teaching. I made my courses sharper, my pedagogy more engaging and my lessons more community-based. I agreed to lead the loathed faculty trainings in hopes that my enthusiasm would mask my growing unease that my students deserved so much more from their institution and from me. I received stellar class reviews, campus faculty recognition, and was nominated for a national teaching award.

But I'd never felt so torn.

Culturally higher education is synonymous with success in the United States, and a college degree has become necessary to compete in the labor force. Proponents of for-profit colleges — from Kaplan University to DeVry — align themselves with the solution, pointing to the number of degrees made possible through their open-enrollnent programs. I've seen and shared that pure elation and thrill that comes as they walk the stage, the future a constellation of possibility.

However, this idea sidesteps reality. The inherent design of these schools explicitly puts profits over students. At for-profit colleges across the country, a portion of the

campus is devoted to the sales department
— a collection of nondescript, cubicle offices where a chorus of voices perpetually
echoes the merits of "career-focused edu-

cation" to prospective students.

The struggle weighed heavily on me, and
still does. Once you know, how do you unknow? Maybe ignorance is bliss. The easy
solution: find another job. But then what
happens in the world of for-profit schools?

The ball keeps bouncing, students still enroll, and the exploitative cycles continue.

Students deserve college opportunities, but
as one for-profit system after another is investigated by the Education Department, it
is increasingly clear this is not the way.

I did eventually move on, at least physically. I moved to pursue a doctorate in a different county. But my heart is always with these students. I keep in touch with many of them, watching as their lives take new turns, and seeing their families grow. Tha a listening ear for some about crushing student debt and a supportive reference to others on the job hunt. My love for teaching has only grown stronger over the years. And so too has my commitment to supporting educational justice, in any way that I can.

Nina M. Flores is a doctoral candidate at UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs. She teaches in the Social and Cultural Analysis of Education graduate program at California State University, Long Beach. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lawsuit claims penis mistakenly amputated

AL BIRMINGHAM — An Alabama man who went to the hospital for a routine circumcision says doctors mistakenly amputated his penis.

Johnny Lee Banks Jr., of Birmingham, and his wife, Zelda Banks, filed the lawsuit Tuesday. They're suing the hospital, doctors and others for medical malpractice.

The lawsuit says Banks went to Princeton Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham last month for a circumcision. The suit alleges the man's penis was gone when he awoke.

The suit says that the mistaken amputation has caused the man extreme pain, and that his wife also is suffering.

The suit names the hospital, a urology group, a medical clinic and two doctors as defendants. It's seeking an unspecified dollar

A hospital spokeswoman said the claims lack merit.

Chase ends as man enters police academy

BILOXI — Police say a man who fled from a Mississippi traffic stop was apparently so focused on getting away he unknowingly ran into a law enforcement academy.

Biloxi Police Chief John Miller Police Chief John Miller said Roger Beasley Jr., 30, was stopped by officers July 16 on U.S. 90 in the city. Miller's statement says Beasley jumped from his vehicle and ran.

According to police, Beasley didn't notice marked police cars outside the Harrison County Law Enforcement Training Academy. Beasley ran into the building while training was in session—and was arrested.

Authorities said Beasley was booked on charges including possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, resisting arrest and careless driving. He's free on hail.

Vandals smear cars with baked goods

OR HILLSBORO
There's mischief afoot
in one suburban Portland, Ore,
neighborhood, but police say it
doesn't involve the typical spray
paint or broken windows. No,
we'retalking pastry here—maple
bars smeared on cars, doughnuts
left atop windshield wipers, pastries littering a vard.

One woman told officers she's seen more than a dozen incidents of food smeared on cars. Not just pastries, but yogurt, cakes and eggs. She alerted police July 11.

The next day, another woman told police her vehicle had been hit six times—twice with a maple bar, once with a cinnamon doughnut, once with pink yogurt, once with "bread soaked in a white, slimy liquid" and once with red potato salad.

The crime wave in a northeast Hillsboro neighborhood has been going on for six weeks.

Police think the victims of the nighttime vandalism are chosen THE CENSUS

\$1.5M

The cost an Indiana state agency has told homeowners that they are responsible for to repair six dams on their neighborhood's lakes. Some of the about 20 property owners in the Hidden Hills neighborhood just outside the city of Peru are fighting the decision. The agency says the dams built to create lakes were never permitted or inspected and that their failure could pose endanger homes downstream.





JIM McBride, The Amarillo (Texas) Globe News/AF

Exhibit is the bomb

Workers push an empty B53 nuclear bomb casing to its new home Wednesday at the Freedom Museum USA in Pampa, Texas. Museum board president John Triplehorn said the item portrays U.S. history and the role played by the military. The former bomb is on loan to the museum for two years.

at random and kids are likely behind it.

Lt. Mike Rouches said officers are investigating and extra patrols have been added.

Still, he added, "In my 25 years in police services, I have never investigated or seen a criminal mischief involving pastries."

Woman: Backyard near turnpike not a rest stop

PA STAHLSTOWN — A Pennsylvania woman says she can see drivers who pull off the side of a highway relieving themselves near her backyard, and state police have been asked to increase patrols.

The woman, Crystal King, said that her backyard in Stahlstown, about 50 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, is separated from the Pennsylvania Turnpike by only a short fence.

King's 11-year-old son and other children in her yard can see people who pull over to relieve themselves instead of using rest areas

King said one woman got

angry when King yelled at her to stop and wound up throwing the

human waste at her.

Turnpike officials said they've spoken to King and have asked police for more patrols.

Tortoise an accomplice in gator's zoo escape?

NAUBINWAY — An owner of a zoo in Michigan's Upper Peninsula says a 12-inch alligator has escaped, possibly with some help from a tortoise.

The alligator named Carlos got out of an enclosure during the weekend at the GarLyn Zoo near Naubinway. He was spotted by people nearby, who called police, but he wasn't caught.

Gary Moore, who runs the zoo in Mackinac County with his wife, said he suspects the alligator slipped under a fence. Moore said a large tortoise that walks in the area, wearing away dirt, likely was an inadvertent accomplice in Carlos' getaway.

GarLyn Zoo is home to about 100 animals, including two adult alligators. Anyone who spots Carlos is asked to contact police or the zoo.

Drunk man run over by own pickup truck

GAINESVILLE — Police say an intoxicated man was run over by his own pickup truck after he got into a road rage incident during a rainstorm.

The incident happened Tuesday evening in Gainesville.

The Gainesville Sun reports Joseph Carl, 48, drove into a vehicle stopped at a red light. He got out of his truck without putting it into park and began banging on the window of a woman's car. When the frightened woman drove away, there was nothing holding his truck in place.

The truck rolled into Carl. A police report says he was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for fractures in his hand and foot.

He's charged with DUI and DUI property damage.

Police: Principal caught taking drugs to prison

NEW YORK — A New York City elementary school principal has been arrested on charges of trying to smuggle drugs into a maximum-security upstate prison.

The Daily News reports that Public School 28 Principal Sadie Silver and a man she was with were arrested Friday after state police said they carried heroin and prescription drugs into the

Coxsackie Correctional Facility.
Police said Silver, 40, and Michael Acosta, 34, had a 10-yearold child with them.

Silver and Acosta face felony charges of promoting prison contraband and criminal possession of a controlled substance as well as a misdemeanor charge of endangering the welfare of a child.

Silver and Acosta have been released on bail. Information on

their attorneys was not available. Education officials have reassigned Silver to an administrative center away from students.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE

We're still batty about him

Batman as relevant today as when he burst onto the comics page 75 years ago

> By MICHAEL CAVNA The Washington Post

n a world filled with seemingly daily disasters and endless turmoil, it's no wonder that superheroes are as popular as ever, from blockbuster movies all 'the way to the local toy shop. "When the world gets scary, superheroes' sales go up," says Brad Meltzer, the bestselling political-thriller author and comic-book creator. "What resonates today is, as we look around at this scary world, we want someone to come save us.

And to Meltzer, no superhero resonates quite like Bat-man. It was May of 1939, during the run-up to World War II, when Batman made his debut in the Detective Comics (later shortened to "DC") book "The Case of the Chemical Syndicate." The Caped Crusader immediately found an eager national audience. Now, so many thousands of crime-fighting adventures later. DC Comics celebrated the 75th anniversary of the iconic character by declaring July 23 "Batman Day." Comic-book outlets around the country partnered with the publisher to offer various Bat-birthday collectibles, as well as a new comic written by Meltzer

DC also timed its Batman event to coincide with the kickoff of this weekend's San Diego Comic-Con, the grand daddy of American pop-culture conventions and festivals that draws more than 125,000 fans to the San Diego Convention Center over 4½ days. And Batman has had a huge hand in that: Comic-Con - which arose in the wake of the character's hit 1960s TV show — enjoyed huge growth in the '90s as Tim Burton's Batman movies starring Michael Keaton reignited Hollywood's interest in superheroes.

To help celebrate the Batman anniversary, DC Entertainment has a sizable presence at this year's festival, in-cluding a "Batman 75: Legends of the Dark Knight" panel. DC says it will continue the anniversary celebration on Saturday by teaming with Random House for events at more than 1,000 American libraries.

And to think this was all spawned by a couple of young creators trying to come up with a character to rival the introduction of Superman — an emergence that sparked the entire multibillion-dollar superhero industry.

In 1938, the world's first popular super hero was launched by Detective Comics.
"As World War II started encroaching on our shores," Meltzer says, "that's when Superman took off, selling over a million copies."

By the next year, the publisher was looking

to replicate that success, and an editor tasked Bob Kane with creating another caped crime-fighter. Inspired partly by da Vinci's drawings of flight, Kane rendered a birdlike bat-man, then took his idea to artist-friend Bill Finger, who sharpened and darkened the look of "the Batman." In May 1939, in Detective Comics No. 27, Batman was born. (A copy of that issue can now fetch \$1.5 million at auction.)

Soon, with help from teenage writer-illustrator Jerry Robinson, Batman had a sidekick (Robin) whose look was drawn from a Wyeth painting; a great villain (the Joker) inspired (according to Robinson) by a playing card; and a moody aesthetic influenced by everything from German expressionist films to Harry Clarke's illustrations for the books of Edgar Allan Poe.

Batman has persevered through so many phases, from a film-noir feel to the high camp of the '60s TV show starring Adam West to the Dark Knight of a shadowy, psychologically tortured figure as popularized by Frank Miller's graphic novels and Christopher Nolan's feature films. The

As we look around at this scary world, we want someone to come save us. 7

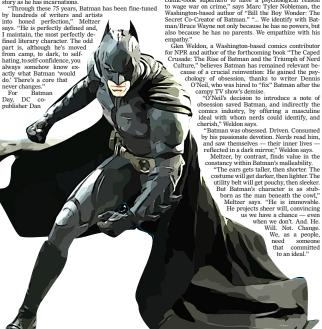
Brad Meltzer

author and comic-book creator



This panel was in the 1988 graphic novel "Batman: The Killing written by Alan Moore and drawn by Brian Bolland.

character endures by having as many entry points to his story as he has incarnations.



BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

would rightly celebrate the Caped Crusader's entire "I wanted the story to stay true to that origin

nal and honor all the came after," Meltzer says. "No "Batman has stayed relevant," DiDio says by phone from DC's New York offices, "because he is

constantly reinvented and reinterpreted by every

For the new comic, Meltzer and designer Chip

Kidd deconstructed Kane and Finger's first Bat-

man story, then weaved in a trove of character history. "We took the story apart and then rebuilt it with

those original images from the first story," Meltzer

Meltzer and Kidd's reimagined comic echoes the theme of need for superheroes in a scary world, as it alludes not only to young Bruce Wayne becoming an orphan after a theater performance, but also to the 2012 multiplex shooting in Aurora, Colo., at a mid-

"First and foremost, that was of course a call to his dead parents," Meltzer says of a scene in his new

Batman story. "But you better believe that those theater shootings were right there, too. For 75 years, Batman has been a cultural shield, protecting us

So why exactly does Batman endure as a pop-cul-

"Thanks to Bill Finger, Batman was the first

comic-book superhero to have a psychological reason

"It was like doing a jigsaw puzzle,

night screening of "The Dark Knight Rises.

from our deepest fears.

generation

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



John Hiatt

Terms of My Surrender (New West)

Over the past 10 to 15 years, John Hiatt seems to have had a purposefully lower profile despite releasing eight albums of new studio material between 2000 and 2012. That's pretty good going by anyone's standards, and each album cemented his reputation as something like the Philip Roth of rock 'n' roll — keeping quiet at home, but putting out consistently literate work. Rock, folk blues, whatever you want to call it, might keep us young, but fortunately Hiatt seems to be growing old gracefully; it's unlikely he'll get caught up in a twerking-style publicity scandal any time soon. and that's a good thing. Stranger things have happened, but you could say the man carries himself well

Charles Pitter



Colt Ford

Thanks For Listening (Average Joe's)

Country music's pre-emi-nent singer/rapper Colt Ford is out with his fifth studio album, "Thanks For Listening," a release thick with featured vocals from other artists and a keen ear toward the caricature of the country lifestyle

This is mostly good old boy territory, with an occasional hiphop backing beat thrown in for good measure. "The High Life," featuring Chase Rice alongside Ford, says as much. There's football-watching, hard-drinking and late-night living to be had, and Ford's having it all at high speed.

"Cut Em All" also delivers a mean country swagger, replete with four-wheeling and hunting. It even has featured vocals from Willie Robertson of the hit TV series "Duck Dynasty."

Ford's lyrics aren't always the meatiest, but his approach is not to dwell too deeply on the human condition. He's here to have fun and let us all know how he had it. Mission accomplished.

– Ron Harris The Associated Press

More Mraz? Yes, please

Singer-songwriter's latest a bright, acoustic romp

n his fifth studio album, singer-song-writer Jason Mraz returns to familiar lyrical territory, exploring the highs and lows of love in his bright, folk-pop style. This time, though, the sound is both richer and more stripped down - an acoustic ride enriched by the vocals, strings and percussion of his partners on the album, the all-female quartet Raining Jane. Their layered harmonies lend an ethereal vibe throughout, and an almost gospel quality to the album's best song, the closing ode to love, "Shine." Mraz co-wrote every song on "YES!" with the

indie group from Los Angeles, except for the worthy resurrection of the



YES! (Atlantic Records)

moment of an ordinary day is magic in "Hello, You Beautiful "I know it's gonna be a good

day," he sings over bouncy guitars and marimbas, "This is what I've been waiting for.'

After heartbreak, he goes 'Back to the Earth," an enthusiastic sing-along about nature's solace.

"I try to stop the world from moving so fast, try to get a grip on where I'm at," he sings, "and simplify this dizzy life and put my feet in the grass.

Like Mraz's previous al-bums, "YES!" is cheerfully

optimistic, as evidenced by the single "Love Someone." But the real standouts are the more introspective tracks, like the cello-driven "You Can Rely on Me" and the downbeat "A World With You.'





Nikki Lane

All or Nothin' (New West)

The connection with Dan Auerbach - the Black Kevs' frontman cowrote five songs, duets on one, and served as producer — will likely draw some folks to Nikki Lane's second album. One thing's for sure: Once she has your atten-tion, Lane doesn't let go.

The title "All or Nothin" hints at the attitude that enlivens much of the album. Lane is country with an edge, and if she's a bit presumptuous to compare herself to Willie Nelson ("Hell, we're both outlaws"), she displays the talent to back up the bravado. The key is savvy material that pres-ents a full-bodied personality, not a caricature. In other words, she's a spitfire who'll warn a loafing romantic partner to "Man Up," in another moment, as in "Seein' Double," she'll reveal an aching vulnerability: "I got a hole in my heart/Mighty deep, cold, and

> - Nick Cristiano The Philadelphia Inquirer



Morrissey

World Peace Is None of Your Business

Now, more than ever, Mor-rissey is an artist who inspires superlatives. So it's no surprise really that "World Peace Is None of Your Business" (Harvest), his first album in five years, shows him at his best and worst.

"Staircase at the University" conjures up memories of his early solo days, shortly after he left The Smiths, when he was fascinated with creating a disconnect between his music and his lyrics.
"Staircase" is so good that it's almost maddening to slog through much of the album, with its in-tentionally off-putting noise-rock touches, plodding arrangements and mean little stories

The clever title track is meant to provoke an investigation into the political process. Unfortunately, too often, Morrissey sim ply wants to provoke, which ends up feeling hollow and pointless.

— Glenn Gamboa Newsday

HEALTH & FITNESS

Become a lean, mean, green machine

Veganism continues to grow, along with research on health benefits

On average, vegans are

36 pounds lighter than

omnivores and feature

cataracts, hypertension,

Dr. Michael Greger

of the United States

the preven-

tion and

diabetes and obesity.

the lowest rates of

By David Templeton Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

o, vegans are not extraterrestrials from a planet orbiting Vega, although many might consider their dietary habits to be completely alien. Plant-only eaters represent a mere 2 percent of the population; another 5 percent describe themselves as vegetarian.

In contrast, Americans are noted for their penchant for overconsumption of such animal-based foods as meat, eggs and dairy along with high sugar intake. More than two-thirds of Americans are overweight or obese, more than a third having diabetes or metabolic syndrome. A poor diet is a risk factor for type 2 diabetes, which carries with it a number of serious and life-threatening complications. Family history, low activity and excess body weight also increase a person's chance of getting the disease.

The "vegan" term can connote an animal-rights ethic and environmental activism, but the common denominator among all vegans is avoidance of all animal-based foodtytif

What might sound crazy to some, a diet completely devoid of steaks, eggs, cheese

and ice cream, has an ally: science.
There are no guarantees, but evidence
continues blooming that a daily diet based
on whole plant foods can prevent or reverse many of the chronic health problems plaguing America — hypertension,
high cholesterol, heart disease and type
2 diabetes. There's further evidence that
a plant-based diet also can help prevent
or fight cancer, autoimmune diseases and
arthritis, among many other common conditions.

Nutrition science prefers discussing a whole-plant-food diet, rather than a vegan one, to eliminate counotations of animal-rights or environmental ideology. But there's little debate that diets limited to vegetables, fruits, nuts, beans, spices and herbs are healthful. They increase fiber intake that's lacking in the large majority of American diets, while providing a wide range of antioxidants, minerals and other nutrients, which build the immune system, reduce inflammation and improve metabolism and gastrointestinal health. The diet also reduces or eliminates the intake of processed foods, empty calories and carcinogens.

Up to 50 vegans responded to a Post-Gazette Facebook request, many advocating animal rights. But many also said they experienced notable health benefits as a welcome side effect, including dramatic weight loss. The diet also hepled individuals to reverse osteoarthritis, autoimmune disorders, colitis or Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis and cancer and bring sugar levels back to normal for those with type 2 diabetes. Others say their plant-based diets increase their energy levels, eliminate allergies and improve their skin, including eliminating acne.

"I will never not be a vegan," said Ellie Gordon, 28, of Pittsburgh, a vegetarian at age 11 and a vegan for seven years. "There have been so many scientific studies and research connecting longevity and alleviation of a whole plethora of health problems with a plant-based diet. There is a whole lot of research to support it even if people don't care about it."

Concerns about sufficient protein and amino acids are common complaints against the vegan diet. Several plant foods, including soy and hemp seeds, are complete proteins, containing all the essential amino acids. Eating a variety of proteinbased vegetables — including leafy greens nuts seeds and beans

greens, nuts, seeds and beans

— throughout the day can, in
combination, provide
the needed amino

Scott Jurek one of America's most notable ultramar athoners, became vegan in 1999 because of poor nutrition affecting him and others he knew. German strongman Patrik Baboumian. who holds world weightlifting records, also is vegan. They say their success proves that the yegan diet is good for muscles and

fitness.
"Don't listen to those self-proclaimed nutrition gurus and the supplement industry trying to tell you that you need meat, eggs and dairy to get enough protein," Baboumian told great veganath-lets-com. "There are plenty of plant-based protein sources, and your body is going to thank you for stopping feeding it with dead-food. Go vegan and feet the power."

Many Americans believe the moisre protein, the better. But a study published in March in Cell Metabolism found that "a low-protein diet during middle age likely is beneficial to prevention of cancer, overall mortality and possibly even diabetes," and "a diet in which plant-based nutrients represent the majority of food intake is likely to maximize health benefits

in all age groups."

The study authors had found an association between high-protein diets — "a significant portion" associated with animal-based protein — and deaths from cancer and other causes. So although the study also found that those 65 and older should get moderate- to high-protein intake, it says their focus should be protein intake, it says their focus should be wight and the same form the study also found that those will be a supported in the same form the same f

The most noncontroversial statement in food science is that people should eat more fruits and vegetables.

"No diet won't agree with said Dr. Michael Greger, director of public health and animal agriculture at the Humane Society of the United States. Also founder of NutritionFacts.org, he reviews 12,000 health studies a year to keep track of nutrition science "It not only can prevent but it also can reverse heart disease. type 2 diabetes and hypertenion. Overwhelmingly, it is the diet most associated with chronic-disease prevention and reversal of most of the diseases plaguing the Western world.'

On average, he said, vegans are 36 pounds lighter than omnivores and feature the lowest rates of catarracts, hypertension, diabetes and obesity. The Adventist Health Studies from 1958 to the present and involving 96,000 people (including 4,000 vegan and 20,000 vegetarians) are cited as providing the clearest evidence of health advantages from plantbased foods

The study, Greger said, has shown that vegans have the best health outcomes, followed by vegetarians. Health benefits progressively recede with increased percentages of animal-based foods. Publicity about plant-based health advantages is working. Meat consumption has dropped 12 percent in

the past five years.

But while all vegan
diets eliminate meat
and dairy, not all vegan
diets are healthy. "Potato chips, Oreos and
Twinkies are all vegan,"
Greger said, explaining
why nutrition scientists em-

why nutrition scientists emphasize a whole-plant-food diet rather

than a vegan one.

The Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly American Dietetic Association) says appropriately planned vegetarian or vegan diets are healthful, nutritionally adequate, and may provide health benefits in

such diets can meet current recommendations for all nutrients, including protein, B-12 and various minerals that previously raised concern about vegetable-based diets. But the association advises people to assess the adequacy of plant-based diets and seek help from nutrition professionals about specific nutrients, food purchasing and preparation, to make dietary modifications that meet individual needs. In a March article, The Atlantic maga-

treatment of certain diseases. It also said

In a March article, The Atlantic magazine recruited Dr. David Katz of the Yale University Prevention Research Center to analyze many diets, including the vegan, Mediterranean and Paleolithic diets, to determine the healthiest. None was declared the winner: The Mediterranean diet features high consumption of vegetables and olive oil with moderate protein consumption. The Paleolithic for cavemany diet tries to emulate what our ancestors ate—meats, non-starch vegetables but no grains or processed floods from modern agriculture.

But a whole-plant-food diet won by default. Katz concludes that "among the salient points of proven health benefits the researchers note, nutritionally replete plant-based diets are supported by a wide array of favorable health outcomes, including fewer cancers and less heart disease. These diets ideally included not just fruits and vegetables, but whole grains, muts and seeds."





VIDEO GAMES

'Divinity: Original Sin'

Old-school role-playing done right

BY DANIEL TACK

e are currently amid a great resurgence of PC RPGs that borrow from the greats of ages past while taking advantage of modern quality-of-life improvements, graph-ics and sound. "Divinity: Original Sin" isn't just a great turn-based RPG, it stands tall on its own as an amazing title where players can truly blaze their own paths through the world as elemental wizards, crafty rogues and brutal warriors.

You begin by choosing two main characters from a selection of presets. These templates are free to edit com-pletely, but provide new players with some general class choices that come packaged with appropriate starting skills and stats. These two characters remain with the player, while two ad-ditional party members can join early

on to create a full team of four.

Combat is turn-based, but never delves into a snoozefest. With no resources like mana or rage, action points do everything—from firing ricocheting to summoning ice elementals It's all about positioning, careful use of action points and elemental combinations. Here's one satisfying sequence create a patch of poison, blow it up with a fire spell, then lay down a steam cloud and electrify it to place opponents in a state of perpetual stun. If you're not bringing any mage types into the fray, don't dismay — all classes have ways to deliver the elemental attacks that are at the crux of combat.

Seemingly impossible encounters and epic boss battles can often be overcome by taking advantage of the environment or the elements. Have someone strong on your team? Have them hurl an oil barrel into the center of a pack of en-emies. No fire arrows, flame spells or other items on your team to light it up? Have a rogue flick a candle into the mix. The options players have at their disposal is staggering at times, and there will be many moments as you move through the game where something will click and you'll say to yourself, "Wait, I can do the?!"

If you want to be the traditional hero and follow quests by the book, that's your choice. If you feel like killing every NPC you come across, that's your choice, too. These decisions have consequences, but problems have many solutions. In one situation, I was faced with a suicide-explosion enemy positioned right next to an NPC I wanted to save. I chose to deal with the issue by simply using a rain spell to put out the bomb's fuse, but a teleport skill or stealthier probably would have handled it with equal finesse. You can even use these skills outside of combat, which means you can prepare for a fight with flame creatures by laying down a rain-







"Divinity: Original Sin" lets players explore a world of diverse environments, from coastal towns to haunted woods to war-forn farmlands.

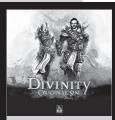
storm, use explosive arrows to blow up landmines that your perception skill located before you ran into them and died, or use telekinesis to grab items from dangerous areas.

After digging into your abilities, you can also experiment with the crafting and bartering systems. Instead of just using hard currency, players can also dump various goods from their pack into trade windows with vendors, who will give you credit at the store for it. Every NPC has an attitude toward the player, and these attitudes can be modified with gifts or skills that allow players to make better trades.

Whether you're making deals, kill-

ing town guards or playing the hero, "Divinity: Original Sin" encourages you to explore the things that interest you. Will you spend hours in town without battling a single enemy talking to citizens, probing for information, and encouring in Adjalous between your engaging in dialogue between your characters? Will you eschew the conversation and charge right out into the wilderness to battle beasts and undead? Will you wander from house to house, closing doors and taking down the in-habitants of the city until your pockets are bulging with stolen treasures?

What Larian has done in this re-spect is incredibly impressive, and it gives the player true freedom and



'Divinity: Original Sin'

Concept: Users travel through an open world on a grand quest fea-turing turn-based combat.

Graphics: This is one of the bestlooking games featuring the iso-metric old-school style.

Sound: An excellent soundtrack keeps things heated in combat and serene when appropriate. Plenty of spoken dialogue and sizzling fireballs are on point.

Playability: The action point system is straightforward and deep With little direction offered, players need to do a lot of their own research, testing and explora-

Entertainment: Plan to lose hours of your life thanks to great character customization, stellar combat, random loot, puzzles, bosses Platforms: PC, Mac

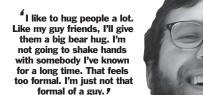
consequence for each action made. It's possible to complete the game "by the book" or as the annihilator of worlds, so while decisions have consequences, nothing you do should lock you out of a playthrough. Just in case, save smart, save often, and try everything.

You're free to bring a friend along to control your second character with the game's co-op mode, and the modding community is sure to create additional scenarios to explore that will keep the scenarios to explore that will keep the title fresh long after your initial play-through. My first run took about 60 hours, and I'm sure I missed plenty.

The experience is not without a few minor quibbles, such as disastrous minor quibbles, such as disastrous misclicks that can occur from enemy/camera positioning and the inability to always have items show up on the ground. The complete freeform gameplay in "Divinity. Original Sin" can be quite daunting and frustrating, especiable or a observer nicrotes the sains. cially as a player navigates the mine-field of the early game without any real direction. Embrace the lack of handholding and complete freedom, and you have an incredible title that provides many hours of entertainment.







Joey Pasko

Embrace your fellow man

Millennial males proudly hug their bros

By Samantha Melamed The Philadelphia Inquirer

oey Pasko is a hugger. The 24-year-old illustrator from Fairmount, Pa., just isn't into the stiff handshake or the feeble wave.

"I like to hug people a lot. Like my guy friends, I'll give them a big bear hug," he said. "I'm not going to shake hands with somebody I've known for a long time. That feels too formal. I'm just not that

formal of a guy."

Pasko, it turns out, has wrapped his arms around a long-term trend: In a broad range of social settings, more men are embracing, well, embracing. It's also triggering awkward mo-ments, as hug-happy millennials encounter older men who have long measured their machismo by their palm-crushing handshakes.

"I think previous generations were more afraid to show affection to other males, because it was viewed as non-masculine or something," Pasko said. "But bromance is in our common vernacular now, so I don't think people are too afraid of it anymore.'

The rise in hugging can be directly traced to declines in homophobia, according to Mark McCormack, a University of Durham (England) sociologist who has studied the behavior of young men in the United States and the United

'These guvs don't care whether other people perceive them as gay. In the '80s and '90s, if you were perceived as gay, you'd face huge stigma for it. You'd get marginalized and insulted," he said. Now, he says, "gender behavior isn't regulated in the same way."

In March, McCormack and colleague Eric Anderson of

Winchester University published a study of British het-erosexual college-age athletes. More than just hugging, 93 percent reported having "spooned" or cuddled with a male friend.

The research made waves in the international press and the reaction to it made waves among McCormack's students. "Older men are shocked that (this behavior) is hap-

pening, and younger men are shocked that it's note-worthy," he said.

McCormack said several types of gateway hugs are facilitating the shift.

Consider the drunken, I-love-you-man grip: Consider the drunken, 1-love-you-man grip:
Once men realize they're no longer being policed for such intoxicated behaviors, they might
feel more comfortable hugging when sober.

It can kick off a "virtuous cycle" of hug proliferation — an arms race, if you will. Other influences include the tactile tra-

ditions of team sports, known for encour-aging swats on the butt and exuberant post-win pigpiles. Lately, even the NFL draft has become a hugfest: Each player gets a squeeze from commissioner Roger Goodell.

While the man-hug is on the rise, some guys

are fending off unwanted embraces.
"I'll try to preempt (a hug) with a very formal handshake," said Klint Kanopka, 31, an 11th-grade science teacher at Academy at Palumbo, a South Philadelphia public school. "If you're firm enough, you can lock your arm to force that distance. When they try to pull you in (for a hug), you can push." Sociologist McCormack noted that studies had

found that hugging has real health benefits, including increases in mood-elevating hormones like oxy-tocin and declines in blood pressure, heart disease and depression.

Whatever the benefits, more are taking part. Minimum-wage activist Rafael Rivero, 28, of South Philadelphia, who is gay, said he had noticed that as rights issues — such as the legalization of same-sex marriage in Pennsylvania in May - become more visible, many men welcome a friendly embrace. But others do not.

"There are two divergent trends," he said. "Some people are more open to it, others it makes uncomfortable. You kind of have to feel the person

Joey Pasko, of Philadephia, right, has no problem embracing his good friend Lucas Quagliata. According to University ciologist Mark McCormack, the rise in male friends hugging can be directly homophobia.

Akira Suwa lel phia Inquirer/MC1



DAILY HEADLINES







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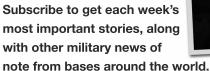
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TODAY'S TOP HEADLINES FROM STARS AND STRIPES.

STARS STRIPES. WEEKLY UPDATE



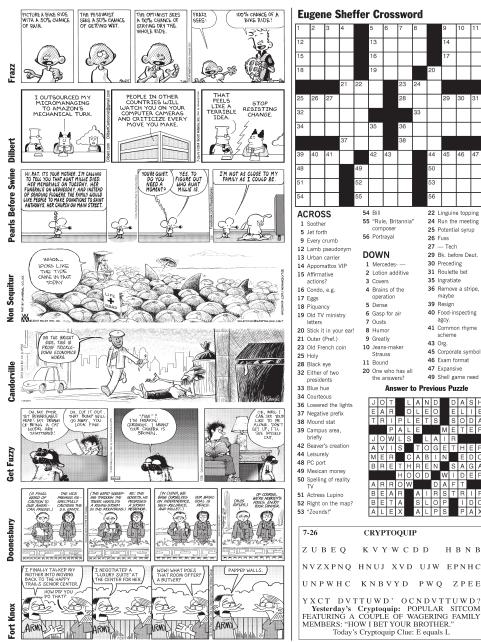




STARS AND STRIPES OFFERS A SUMMARY

OF THE LEADING STORIES OF THE WEEK.

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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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CRYPTOQUIP

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YXCT DVTTUWD' OCNDVTTUWD? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR SITCOM FEATURING A COUPLE OF WAGERING FAMILY MEMBERS: "HOW I BET YOUR BROTHER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals L

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Layoffs are becoming rare across US

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The risk of losing your job is getting smaller and smaller

As the U.S. economy has improved and employers have regained confidence, companies have been steadily shedding fewer workers, which is why applications for unemployment benefits have dwindled to their lowest level since February 2006 - nearly two years before the Great Recession began — the government said Thursday.

The trend means greater job security and suggests a critical turning point in the economic recovery. It raises the hone that workers' pay will finally accelerate after grinding through a sluggish recovery for the past half-decade.

When the economy sank into recession at the end of 2007, employers cut deeply into their staffs. And then during the recovery, they hired only hesitantly. Instead, they sought to maximize the productivity of existing employees

But in recent months, the picture has brightened. Employers have added 200,000-plus jobs for five straight months, and the unemployment rate has reached 6.1

percent, the lowest since 2008. Now, the steadily declining level of layoffs suggests that em-ployers may have to hire even more aggressively and raise pay if they want to expand their busi-nesses, said Joel Naroff, president

of Naroff Economic Advisers. "They've been continually working their workers harder and longer," Naroff said. "As a result of that, we have consistent growth and you can't lay off peo-ple anymore."

The shortage of laid-off workers searching for jobs means that more companies may need to pay more to attract talent. Thus far, wage growth essentially only has kept pace with inflation, and household incomes remain below their 2007 levels.

Most husinesses so far have been hesitant to raise wages, so there may be a lag before workers see higher paychecks.

"But when the dam breaks, it's really going to break," Naroff predicted.

Some firms say they're already dealing with wage pressures. Cleveland-based Applied Medi-

cal Technology has raised hourly pay for warehouse employees from \$8.25 to \$10. It did so both to attract new hires and because it heard that some of its employees had quit for raises elsewhere, said Jeff Elliott, the company's chief financial officer.

The company also started holding pizza parties and summer cookouts. Elliott said it's cheaper and easier to keep existing employees than to find and train new

Throughout the economy, lay offs have fallen so much that the number of people seeking unemployment benefits plunged last week to a seasonally adjusted 284,000, a low last achieved in February 2006. And after accounting for U.S. population growth, the number of people applying for un-

employment aid has reached its lowest point since 1999.

The four-week average of applications, which smooths out week-to-week fluctuations, has dropped to 302,000 from 348,500

when the year began. The sharp decline has paral leled healthy monthly employment reports. Employers added a net 288,000 jobs in June, capping the first five-month stretch of gains above 200,000 since 1999 at the height of the dot-com boom.

MARKET	T WATCH
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composite	4,472.11
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Euro costs (July 28)	\$1.3810
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British pound (July 28)	\$1.74
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Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
Bahrain (Dinar) British pound	\$1.6994/0.5884
Canada (Dollar)	1.0/68
China (Yuan)	6.1918
Denmark (Krone)	
Egypt (Pound)	7.1515
Euro	\$1.3439/0.7441
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7500
Hungary (Forint)	229.29
Israel (Shekel)	3.4239
Japan (Yen)	101.80
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2828
Norway (Krone)	6.2090
Philippines (Peso)	43.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
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WEATHER OUTLOOK







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Fairbanks

Fresno Goodland Grand Junction Grand Rapids Great Falls Green Bay Greensboro, N.C. Houston Jackson, Miss. Jacksonville

Memphis Miami Beach Midland-Ode Milwaukee Mpls-St Pau Missoula Mobile Montgomei Nashville New Orleans New York City Newark Norfolk,Va North Platt Oklahoma PCIdy PCIdy Rain PCIdy PCIdy PCIdy Cir Oklahoma Omaha Orlando Paducah Pendleton Peoria Philadelphi Phoenix Pittsburgh

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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Cycling

Tour de France

Friday
Friday
At Bergerac, France
19th Stage
129.5 miles through rain from Maubourguet to Bergerac, with only a single
Category 4 climb near the finish
1. Ramjunas Navardueth Ramunas Navardauskas, Lithuania, Garmin-Sharp, 4 hours, 43 minutes, 41

seconds.

2. John Degenkolb, Germany, Giant-Shimano, 7 seconds behind.

3. Alexander Kristoff, Norway, Katu-sha, same time.

4. Mark Renshaw, Australia, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, same time.

5. Daniele Bennath, Italy, Tinkoff-Saxo,

me time.

6. Alessandro Petacchi, Italy, Omega narma-Quick-Step, same time.

7. Samuel Dumoulin, France, AG2R La ondiale, same time.

8. Julien Simon, France, Cofidis, same Mo

8. Julien Simori, France, Corinos, Samtine.
9. Sep Vanmarcke, Belgium, Belkin Pro
Cycling, same time.
10. Jurgen Roelandts, Belgiu, Lotto
Belisol, same time.
11. Romain Felliu, France, BretagneSeche Environnement, same time.

Seche Environnement, same time.

12. Matteo Trentin, Italy, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, same time.

13. Jan Bakelants, Berjum, Omega Bakelants, Berjum, Omega Pharma-Lish, Michael Morkov, Denmark, Tinkoff-Saxo, same time.

15. Marco Marcato, Italy, Cannondale, same time.

16. Giovanni Visconti, Italy, Movistar, same time. same time. 17. Jesus Herrada, Spain, Movistar, same time. 18. Thibaut Pinot, France, FDJ.fr, same

time. 19. Arnold Jeannesson, France, FDJ.fr,

same time.

20. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, same time.

Also

24. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana,

24. Wincenzo Niball, Italy, Astana, and Time. An analysis of the Market Point of the Market Point of the Market Point of the Market Point Office of the Mark

139, Dariny Parte, Direct States, Sky, Same time.

Overall Standings
(After 19 stages)

1. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 85 hours, 29 minutes, 33 seconds.

2. Tribaut Pinot, France, Pufr. 7:10.

2. Tribaut Pinot, France, Pufr. 7:10.

4. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 7:25.

8. Romain, Bardet, France, AGZR La

... munain Bardet, France, AGZR La Mondiale, 927. Garderen, United States, 8Mc Racing, 1134. 7. Bauke Mijema, Netherlands, Belikin 7. Bauke Mijema, Netherlands, Belikin Netherlands, Belikin Pro Cycliffe, 121. Excent Republic, Ne-her States, 121. Excent Republic, Ne-her Research, 121. Excent Republic, Ne-port, Racing, 121. Excent Research 121. Expans Schiefer, Inventor, 121. Expans Sch

32:30.

15. Steven Kruijswijk, Netherlands, Belkin Pro Cycling, 34:30.
16. Christopher Horner, United States, Lampre-Merida, 39:28.
17. Brice Feillu, France, Bretagne-Seche Environnement, 41:30.
18. Mike Nieve, Spain, Sky, 41:34.
19. John Gadret, France, Movistar, 41:41.

Tanel Kangert, Estonia, Astana,

50:34. Also
33. Peter Stetina, United States, BMC
Racing, 1:47:01.
54. Benjamin King, United States, Gar-

handly 1947UL 54. Benjamin King, United States, Gar-min-Sharp, 238:06. 25. Matthe Wesche, United States, 195. Matthe 2009, 334:15. 127. Alex Howes, United States, Gar-min-Sharp, 408:25. 154. Danny Pate, United States, Sky, 4:45:53.

Tennis

World TeamTennis **FASTERN CONFERENCE** GB

-Washington Philadelphia WESTERN CONFE Pct. .714 W L 10 4 xy-San Diego x-Springfield Austin Texas 8 .429 x-clinched playoff spot y-Clinched Conference

Wednesday's matches
Philadelphia 21, Washington 20, STB
Springfield 25, Boston 7

Springfield 25, Boston 7
San Diego 22, Austin 12
End of Regular Season
Playoffs
First Round
Eastern Conference
Thursday: Washington 21, Philadel-

Western Conference Thursday: Springfield 22, San Diego

Championship Sunday: Washington at Springfield

Atlanta Open

A U.S. Open Series event
Thursday
At Attantic Station
Purse: \$447,675 (WTZ50)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Scood Revertherlands, def.
sevin Anderson (2), South Africa, 6-4, 7-5.

5. Benjamin Becker, Germany, def. Yenhsun Lu (7), Taiwan, 6-4, 6-3. Mustralia, def. Tim Smyczek, United States, 6-4, 7-5. John Isner (1), United States, def. Robby Ginepri, United States, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5.

7-5. Doubles
Quarterfinals
Kevin King, United States, and Michae
Venus, New Zealand, def. Robby Ginepriand Ryan Harrison, United States, walk-

over.
Vasek Pospisil, Canada, and Jack Sock
(1), United States, def. Benjamin Becker
and Frank Moser, Germany, 6-4, 6-1.

Swiss Open

Thursday At Roy Emerson Arena Gstaad, Switzerland Purse: \$656,900 (WT250) Surface: Clay-Outdoor Singles Second Round

Second Round
Mikhail Youzhny (1), Russia, def. Kenny de Schepper, France, 6-3, 6-4.
Robin Haase (7), Netherlands, def. Henri Laaksonen, Switzerland, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.

Henri Laaksonen, Switzeriand, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5. Viktor Troicki, Romania, def. Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-4. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, vs. Fer-nando Verdasco (4), Spain, 6-3, 3-6, 1-1, susp., rain.

Johan Brunstrom, Sweden, and Nicholas Monroe (4), United States, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Eduardo Schwank, Argentina, 5-7, 6-3, 11-9.
Andre Begemann, Germany, and Robin Haase, Wetherlands, def. Henri Laaksonen and Yann Marti, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-2.

Guarterfinals
Facundo Bagnis and Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Jamie Murray, Britain, and John Peers (1), Australia, 5-7,
6-4, 11-9,
Pablo Andujar, Spain, and Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Dominik Meffert,
Germany, and Philipp Oswald, Austria,
7-6 (3), 6-4.

Croatia Open Thursday At ITC Stella Maris

At Trustaley, And Tru

Baku Cup

Baku Cup

Thursday

At Baku A, Archalain

Baku A, Archalain

Burse: \$250,000 (nt.)

Singles

Strain Vegelet. Singles

Alexand Quarterfinals and Health

Alexand Quarterfinals

Alexand Quarterfin

Golf

Canadian Open

PGA Tour
Thursday
tt Royal Montreal Golf Club, Blue
Course
Montreal
Purse: \$5.7 million
Yardage: 7,143: Par: 70 (35-35)
First Round
First Round

Michael Putnam	31-33-64
Tim Petrovic	31-33-64
Kvle Stanlev	35-30-65
a-Taylor Pendrith	32-33-65
Justin Hicks	36-30-66
Charlie Wi	32-34-66
Greg Chalmers	34-32-66
Nick Watney	32-34-66
Robert Allenby	32-34-66
Troy Merritt	32-34-66
Bo Van Pelt	30-36-66
Dicky Pride	30-36-66
Charl Schwartzel	33-33-66
Jason Bohn	34-32-66
Joel Dahmen	34-32-66
Tim Wilkinson	35-32-67
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	33-34-67
Matt Bettencourt	32-35-67
Jerry Kelly	34-33-67
Tim Clark	33-34-67
Scott Brown	34-33-67
Ken Duke	31-36-67
Andrew Svoboda	31-36-67
Brvce Molder	31-36-67

LPGA International Crown

LPGA International Crown
Turriday
At Costs Valley Gulf club
Over State of Costs Valley Gulf Club
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Over Standings Tag. Depo A. Spain 3, Thailand
1, United State O.
Ariya Spain 3, Thailand Spain 3, Thailand, Jahved with Bellen Mozo and Beatry
Ariya Spain 4, Thailand Spain 4, Thailand, Jahved with Bellen Mozo and Seating
Ariya Spain 4, Thailand Spain 4, Thailand, Jahved With Bellen Mozo and Seating
Ariya Spain 4, Thailand Spain 4, Thailand
Ariya Spain 5, Thailand Spain 4, Thailand
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Ariya Spain 5, Thailand Spain 5, Thailand Spain 5, Thailand
Ariya Spain 5, Thailand Spain 5,

Taiwan 4. United States 0

Talwan 4, United States 0
Candie kung and Teresa Lu, Talwan, of Saula Cresimer and Cristic Kerr, Unitvani Teren and Phoebe Yao, Talwan, of Saula Cresimer and Cristic Kerr, UnitYani Teren and Phoebe Yao, Talwan, of Say, Levels, and Leu Thompson, of Company Levels, and the Cresimer and Saulary Schooline, Japan, of Perrilla Lindberg and Mikael and Marcha Cresimer and Saulary Schooline, Japan, of Perrilla Lindberg and Mikael Saulary and Saulary Schooline, Japan, of Cresimer Saulary Schooline, Japan, of Perrilla Lindberg and Mikael Saulary Saula

Senior British Open Thursday At Royal Porthcawl Golf Club Bridgend, Wales

Purse: \$2 million Yardage: 7.021: Par: 71

First Round		
ernhard Langer	65	-4
b Tway	67	-4
nris Williams	68	-
ndrew Oldcorn	69	-
edro Linhart	70	-
ck Gibson	70	-
enny Hutton	71	0.000
George Zahringer	71	
ott Dunlap	71	
mie Spence	71	
avid Frost	71	
ed Couples	71	
eve Jones	71	
eter Fowler	71	
ff Hart	71	
Chip Lutz	72	+
nilip Walton	72	+
rk Triplett	72	+
olin Montgomerie	72	+++++
an Forsman	72	+
n Carter	72	+

Per Ric Ke a-So Ja Da

Ph Kin Co

Pro soccer

Portland 5 6 8 San Jose 5 8 Note: Three points point for tie. 30 oint for tie.

Wednesday's game
San Jose 5, Chicago 1
Thursday's game
Real Salt Lake 3, Montreal 1
Friday's game
Chivas USA at Colorado Chivas USA at Colorado
Sporting Marcay's games
Sporting Kansas City at Toronto FC
Columbus at New England
FC Dallas at Vancouver
FC Dallas at Vancouver
Portland at Mondray's game
Go Angeles and Golden Sporting American
So Angeles Angeles
Wednesday, July 30
Toronto FC at D.C. United
Colorado at New England
Vancouver at Chicapo
New York at Real Salt Luke

Thursday Realt Salt Lake 3, Impact 1

Montreal
Real Salt Lake
1 0-1
Real Salt Lake
1 12-3
First half—1, Real Salt Lake, Mulholland 5 (Schuler), 3rd minute. 2, Montreal,
Camara 1 (Mallace), 31st.
Second half—3, Real Salt Lake, Garcia
1 (Mulholand, Morales), 70th, 4, Real Salt
Lake, Garcia 2 (Morales, Beckerman),

Adel Arcia 2 (Morales, Beckerman), 90th+, Goalles—Montreal, Evan Bush; Real Salt Lake, Nick Rimando. Yellow Cards—Wingert, Real Salt Lake, 18th; Gagnon-Lapare, Montreal, 82nd. Red Cards—Nakajima-Farran, Mon-treal, 63th.

NWSL

pint for tie.

Wednesday's game
Washington 1, Portland 1, tie
Friday's game
Boston at Western New York
Saturday's game
Houston at Chicago Sunday's games Sky Blue FC at FC Kansas City Portland at Seattle FC Sey June 2 Seattle FC

Wednesday, July 20
FC Kansas City at Washington
Seattle FC at Houston
Thursday, July 31

Western New York at Sky Blue FC
Saturday, Aug. 2
Chicago at Washington
Seattle FC at FC Kansas City
Saturday, Aug. 3

Houston at Portland
Western New York at Boston

Pro basketball

WNBA **EASTERN CONFERENCE**

L Pct 7 .682 13 .458 13 .458 13 .458 13 .435 15 .400 GB 13 13 13 15 Indiana Washington New York Connecticut WESTERN CONFERENCE Pct .870 GB W 20 L 3 x-Phoenix 20 3 am/ Minnesota 18 6 .75/ San Antonio 12 12 .50/ Los Angeles 10 14 .41/ Seattle 9 17 .34/ TuSal x-Clinched playoff 5pot 16 .33/ x-Clinched playoff 5pot 16 .33/ x-Clinched playoff 5pot 17 .04/ Wednesday's games Washington 89, Connecticut 75 New York 66, Los Angeles 64 3 .870 6 .750 12 .500 14 .417 17 .346 16 .333

Washington of, Connection
New York 66, Los Angeles 67
Thursday's games
New York 66, Los Angeles 7
New York 68, Los Angeles 7
Tulsa at Washington
Chicago at Atlanta
San Antonio at Minnesota
San Antonio at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Seattle
Indian at San Antonio
New York at Phoenix

Deals

Thursday's transactions BASEBALL

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Optioned OF
Jimmy Paredes to Norfolk (IL),
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed RHP
Zach Putham on the 15-day DL. Recalled
RHP Andre Rienzo from Charlotte (IL). KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Traded INF/ OF Jimmy Paredes to Baltimore for cash

onsiderations. LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed OF Grant Green on the 15-day DL, retroac-tive to Monday. Recalled INF C.J. Cron from Salt Lake (PCL). MINNESOTA TWINS — Recalled RHP

Ryan Pressly from Rochester (IL) and INF Jorge Polanco from Fort Myers (FSL). Traded 1B/DH Kendrys Morales to Seat-tle for RHP Stephen Pryor and optioned Pryor to Rochester.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with 2B Billy Fleming on a minor

league contract.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Designated RHP Jim Johnson for assignment. Recalled RHP Evan Scribner from Sacramento (PCL).

SEATTLE MARINERS — Optioned RHPs Blake Beavan and Taijuan Walker to Ta-

Blake Beavan and Taijuan Walker to Ta-coma (PCL).

AS SAMERS — Optioned RHP CTEAS Exhels to Round Rock (PCL). Se-lected the contract of RHP Nate Adock from Round Rock, Transferred 1B Mitch Moreland to the 60-day DL. Sent LHP Jo-seph Ortiz to Frisco (TL) for a rehab as-signment.

National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Placed RHP Anthony Varvaro on paternity leave. Recalled RHP Gus Schlosser from Gwinnett (IL).

COLORADO ROCKIES — Assigned RHP Jair Jurriens outright to Colorado Springs (PCL). Traded LHP Chris Capuano to the N.Y. Yankees for cash. LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Sent SS Erisbel Arruebarrena to AZL Dodgers for

Erisbel Arruebarrena to AZL Dodgers for a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK to Las Vegas (PCL). Revenue with the Las Vegas (PCL). Revenue with the Foreson Las Vegas. Assigned BHP Buddy Carlyle outright to Las Vegas (PCL).

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS. A Agreed to terms with 28 Jake Gronsky on a minor league contract.

league contract.

National Basketball Association
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Signed G

Andrew Wiggins.

ORLANDO MAGIC — Signed G Devyn PHOENIX SUNS — Released G Dionte

Christmas. FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Suspended Baltimore RB Ray
Rice two games and fined an additional
game check for conduct detrimental to
the NFL in violation of the league's per-

sonal conduct policy.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Agreed to terms
with WR Roddy White on a four-year conwith WK RODDY White On a Tour-year con-tract extension. BUFFALO BILLS — Claimed C Jared BUFFALO BILLS — Claimed C Jared Wheeler off waivers from Carolina. Waived-injured CB Brandon Smith. CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed G Fer-nando Velasco and C Kevin Matthews. Released C Jared Wheeler and LB Billy

ryko. CINCINNATI BENGALS — Claimed WF Inner Vernon off waivers from Cleve-

Conner Vernon off waivers from Cleve-land. Signed WR Jeremy Johnson. Placed OL Andrew Whitworth on the PUP list. Waived P.T.J. Conley. CLEVELAND BROWNS — Activated OL Chris Faulk and Jeremiah Warren, DL Ja-cobbi McDaniel and RB Terrance West from the non-football injury list. Re-leased RB Jourdan Brooks and WR Kenny

Trom. The non-tootball injury list. Retrom the non-tootball injury list. ReBALLAS COWBOYS — Placed 8 Ronald
BALLAS — Ronald
BALLAS — Placed 8 Ronald
BALLAS — Released 12 Ronald
BALLAS — Released

TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with OT Taylor Lewan. HOCKEY
National Hockey League
MONTRAL CANADIENS — Agreed to
rms with C Lars Eller on a four-year

terms with C Lars Eller on a four-year contract. **NEW YORK ISLANDERS** — Agreed to terms with G Kevin Poulin on a one-year, VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Signed C Jared McCann to an entry-level contract.
WINNIPEG JETS — Agreed to terms
with D Keaton Ellerby on a one-year, twoway contract.

with Dikeaton Ellerby on a one-year, twoyocntract.

INDYCAR — Fined Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing 55.00 for a technical violation on its entry driven by Luca Filippi Acid
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SPORTS BRIEFS/TOUR DE FRANCE

Briefly

2 Texas football players charged with sex assault

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Two University of Texas football players were arrested and charged Thursday with felony sexual assault after a female student said she was raped in a campus dorm room last month.

Wide receivers Kendall Sanders and Montrel Meander were later released on personal recognizance bonds. According to an arrest affidavit, Sanders and Meander texted each other during earlier interviews with police to "get their story straight" and Sanders also faces a charge of improper photography tied to the alleged assault on June 21.

The arrests created the first program crisis for first-year Longhorns coach Charlie Strong, who will welcome his team to preseason training camp in two

Strong, who enjoyed a warm reception at the Big 12 media days earlier this week and spent several weeks last spring touring the state to build fan support, immediately suspended both players.

"We've been monitoring and addressing the situation with Kendall and Montrel since it was brought to our attention," Strong said in a statement released by the school. "If's been made clear to everyone on our team that treating women with respect is one of our core values, and I'm extremely disappointed that two young men in our program have been accused of not doing that."

The sexual assault charges carry prison terms of two to 20

In other college football news:

Washington quarterback
Cyler Miles was suspended for the
Huskies' season opener against
Hawaii for his role in two on-campus assaults following the Seattle
Seahawks' win over the Denver
Broncos in the Super Bow.

Coach Chris Petersen said on Thursday that Miles will miss the

Aug. 30 game.
Wide receiver Damore'ea
Stringfellow, who has since left
the team, pleaded guilty to two
counts of assault and one count of
mischief. Miles was not charged.

Miles, a sophomore, will be one three quarterbacks competing to replace Keith Price. Redshirt sophomore Jeff Lindquist and redshirt freshman Troy Williams split snaps during spring practice while Miles was suspended from all team activities.

"We thought it was appropriate that he would miss the first game as well," Petersen said while speaking at Paramount Studios. "I'll tell you, he missed all of spring ball, he missed every meeting, everything. He has already been through a lot, just that alone to be put behind the eight ball."

Cavs sign Wiggins, can't make trade for 30 days

CLEVELAND — Andrew Wiggins has an NBA home. Maybe a temporary one.

The Cavaliers signed the No. 1 overall draft pick Thursday, a deal that prevents Wiggins from being traded for 30 days.

Wiggins has been linked to a possible blockbuster trade with Minnesota for All-Star forward Kevin Love. But any deal now involving Wiggins can't be finalized for at least 30 days.

The Cavs and Timberwolves have had talks about a trade involving Love for months, long before Cleveland selected Wigns, the former Kansas standout, with the first pick in May's draft. Those discussions have intensified lately, and the sides can still reach an agreement on a trade but nothing can be finalized until latel August.

In other NBA news:
■ The Dallas Mavericks have signed former All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson as a free

Nelson spent his first 10 seasons with Orlando after the Magic acquired his rights from Denver, which took him with the 20th overall pick in 2004. The 32-year-old has career averages of 12.6 points and 5.4 assists.

Orlando waived its career leader in assists on June 30.

■ Los Angeles Clippers star Blake Griffin has withdrawn from playing for the U.S. national basketball team this summer.

Griffin said Thursday that he wants to dedicate all his energy on improving and preparing for the upcoming NBA season. He joins Oklahoma City guard Russell Westbrook in not participating. Westbrook dropped out to rest previous knee injuries.

FIFA rejects call to strip Russia of World Cup

ZURICH — FIFA has rejected calls to move the 2018 World Cup from Russia, saying the tournament "can achieve positive change."

Russia's alleged involvement in shooting down a Malaysia Airlines plane over Ukraine last week prompted calls from some lawmakers in Germany to review the country's hosting rights.

On Friday, FIFA issued a statement saying it "deplores any form of violence" and would support only peaceful, democratic debate about the World Cup.

"History has shown so far that boycotting sport events or a policy of isolation or confrontation are not the most effective ways to solve problems," FIFA said.



RISTOPHE ENA/AF

Italy's Vincenzo Nibali, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, rides in the rain. Barring some unforeseen disaster, Nibali will be crowned this year's winner on Sunday.

Navardauskas wins Stage

Italian Nibali retains leader's yellow jersey

By Jamey Keaten
The Associated Press

BERGERAC, France — Ramunas Navardauskas of Lithuania led a late breakaway in a downpour to win the 19th Stage of the Tour de France on Friday after hitching a ride with his Garmin-Sharp teammates.

Italy's Vincenzo Nibali retained the overall leader's yellow jersey and is expected to take it home with him when the three-week cycling showcase ends Sunday.

Navardauskas stole away from the pack late in the 129.5-mile northward trek from Maubourguet to Bergerac.

He looked back over his shoulder, kissed his fingers and raised his arms in victory, with a bunch of sprinters barreling behind him. They crossed seven seconds later, and the stragglers followed

The 26-year-old Garmin-Sharp rider became the first Lithuanian to win an individual stage at cycling's greatest race, and gave his team its first stage win this Tour. In 2011, he was also part of the Garmin-Cervelo squad that won the team time trial at the Tour that year, and he also won a stage in the Italian Giro last year.

Garmin-Sharp made the win a team effort.



Cunicronus Eng/AS

Stage winner Lithuania's Ramunas Navardauskas celebrates on the

First, Dutch rider Tom-Jelte Slagter joined a five-man breakaway early in the stage, then sped ahead alone.

Alex Howes of the United States helped to pull the Lithuanian up front, before Navardauskas went away solo with about 8 miles left.

"I gave it all. My teammates worked really hard for me," said Navardauskas. "I took a risk — you have to try — and it worked."

Within the last few kilometers, around a dozen riders crashed together while trying to turn rightward on the rain-slickened roads. Among them were Slovak rider Peter Sagan, who has the green jersey given to the race's best sprinter, and Jean-Christophe Peraud, who is third overall.

Under course rules, because the crash happened in the last 2 miles, nobody who went down lost time in the title chase.

The top standings didn't

The final shakeout comes Saturday with this year's only individual time trial.

Nibali leads his closest rival by more than seven minutes, but the quest for the last two podium spots is tight. Only 15 seconds separates Thibaut Pinot, Peraud and Aleiandro Valverde.

AUTO RACING



JEFF SINER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MC

NASCAR driver Tony Stewart's win in a sprint car race last week was his first since he broke his leg in an extracurricular race last August. He missed the final 15 weeks of the NASCAR season with the injury.

Indy homecoming offers Chase chance for Stewart

Tony Stewart at a glance

Age: 43. Year Started: 1999

Birthplace: Columbus, Ind. Resides: Columbus, Ind.

Career highlights: Sprint Cup points champion in 2002, 2005 and 2011;

Won NASCAR Rookie of the Year in 1999; Won six races in the 2000 NAS-

CAR season; Became driver/owner for the

new Stewart-Haas Racing team, 2008.

By Jenna Fryer The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.
ony Stewart heads
into the busiest
week of his year
riding high
from a win in his return
to sprint car racing.
Stewart raced in a

Stewart raced in a sprint car last weekend for the first time since he broke his leg in an extracurricular race last August. He missed the final 15 weeks of the NASCAR season with the injury.

He vowed he would continue to live his life, and made good on that promise in Michigan, where on Friday night he climbed into a car at Tri-City Motor Speedway and won. He also raced Saturday night at Crystal Motor Speedway, where he finished third.

"It felt great," said Stewart, who picked a pair of low-profile races to make his return instead of joining the World of Outlaws, home to the top sprint car drivers.

"The Outlaw series was in Pennsylvania, so that's probably the toughest place in the country to try to go back. It's probably the toughest race to go to, period," Stewart said. "I didn't feel like that was probably the best place to try to go back for the first time. But it was neat to get back in the car, finally, in a scenario that was low pressure."

So what's next? More racing, but Stewart said his schedule will be lighter than he hoped.

The three-time NASCAR champion discussed extracurricular racing with his management team and Stewart-Haas Racing competition director Greg Zipadelli and mapped out a schedule that Stewart will follow. They decided on slower-speed tracks for safety

"There are some races that I really have my heart set on running," he said. "I'm trying to be smart about where we're going."

On Monday, Stewart headed to Eldora Speedway, the dirt track he owns in Rossburg, Ohio, where he was hands-on the next two days as his staff prepared to host NASCAR's Truck Series race on Wednesday for the second consecutive year.

"It's about as close to being a proud father as I can imagine being," he said. "Anybody that thinks that putting on a single MASCAR event is easy... People think you start working I think a week ahead of time to get ready for stuff like this, and it's been a very large, eye-opening experience for me. It takes months and months of work, and so many details."

When the checkered flag falls on the trucks, Stewart will shift to Indianapolis Motor Speedway to prepare for Sunday's Sprint Cup race. The two-time Brickyard winner returns to his home track winless on the season and 19th in the standings, but hopeful he can get a breakthrough victory.

get a breakthrough victory.

It doesn't hurt that he won in his sprint car last weekend.

sprint car last weekend.
"Everyfody loves good juju," he
laughed. "It was more than just a
good way to start the week. It was
a confidence boost for me. When
you haven't won, and you haven't
been necessarily a contender to be
in the top two or three each week
and having those opportunities
to win races, you start questioning what is it in the equation that
wulte missing.

"To be able to go out and win on Friday night and run third on Saturday night, and to have two good runs like that in a car that I haven't been in for almost a full year now, that was a huge confidence boost and made me feel like, hey, maybe we'll just find something else."

Around the tracks

SPRINT CUP

This week: Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis.
TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday Cen-

tral European Time.

Track: Indianapolis Motor Speedway

(oval, 2.5 miles).

Race distance: 400 miles, 160 laps.

Last year: Indiana driver Ryan Newman raced to the last of his 17 Cup victories.

Last race: Brad Keselowski won at New Hampshire on July 13 to complete a Nationwide-Sprint Cup week-

nete a Nationwide-Sprint Cup weekend sweep.

Next race: GoBowling.com 400,
Aug. 3, Pocono Raceway, Long Pond,

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

Jeff Gordon Dale Earnhardt Jr	
3. Brad Keselowski	634
4. Matt Kenseth	
5. Jimmie Johnson	. 598
6. Carl Edwards	
7. Ryan Newman	. 573
8. Kyle Busch	567
9. Joey Logano	551
10. Clint Bowyer	548
11. Paul Menard	541
12. Denny Hamlin	
13. Kevin Harvick	
14. Kyle Larson	
15. Austin Dillon	
16. Greg Biffle	
17. Kasey Kahne	515
18. Brian Vickers	
19. Tony Stewart	
20. Marcos Ambrose	. 489

Driver to watch

le is in a battle just. Sprint Dup Chaes to Light in Cup Seedway the Motor Speedway the Arace in the No. 16 For Race winners get if Chase as long as they a ings and attempt Biffle

DRIVER TO WATCH

Roush Fenway Racing veteran **Greg Biffle** knows he is in a battle just to make this year's NASCAR Sprint Cup Chase for the Championship. Biffle is 16th in Cup series points headed to Indianapolis Motor Speedway this weekend and has yet to win a race in the No. 16 Ford Fusion.

Race winners get first priority for the 16-driver Chase as long as they are in the top 30 in the standings and attempted to qualify for every race.

Biffle has only one top-10 finish in his past nine races, taking second in the Aaron's 499 at Talladega on May 4. He has four top-10 finishes this season.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

D Cocalola

This week: Lily Diabetes 250 at

TV: AFN-Xtra, 10:30 p.m. Saturday Central European Time.

Track: Indianapolis Motor Speedway (oval, 2.5 miles).

Distance: 250 miles, 100 laps.
Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the

Last week: Chase Elliott won for the third time this year, holding off Trevor Bayne at Chicagoland Speedway to

take the season points lead.

Next race: U.S. Cellular 250, Aug.

2, Iowa Speedway, Newton, Iowa.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: Darrell Wallace Jr. won the Mudsummer Classic on Wednesday night at Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio. Ron Hornaday Jr. was second.

Next race: Pocono Mountains 150, Aug. 2, Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, Pa

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Hungarian Grand Prix at Budapest.

Track: Hungaroring (road course, 2.72 miles).

Distance: 190.53 miles, 70 laps.

Last year: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the race for the second straight year to match Michael Schumacher's track victory record of four.

Last week: Mercedes' Nico Rosberg won the German Grand Prix to stretch his season lead to 14 points over teammate Hamilton. The first German winner at Hockenheim since Schumacher in 2006, Rosberg has four victories this

Next race: Belgian Grand Prix, Aug. 24, Spa-Francorchamps Circuit, Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium.
Online: formulal.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Sonoma Nationals at Sonoma, Calif.
TV: AFN-Xtra, 3 a.m. Monday Cen-

tral European Time.

Track: Sonoma Raceway.

Last year: Ron Capps won in Funny
Car, Shawn Langdon won in Top Fuel,
Vincent Nobile in Pro Stock, and Hec-

tor Arana Jr. in Pro Stock Motorcycle.
Last week: J.R. Todd won the MileHigh Nationals in Colorado for his first
Top Fuel victory since 2008. Robert
Hight won in Funny Car, Allen Johnson in Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines in Pro
Stock Motorcycle.

Next event: NHRA Northwest Nationals, Aug. 1-3, Pacific Raceways, Kent, Wash.

ent, Wash. Online: nhra.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

Next race: Honda Indy 200, Aug. 3, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington. Ohio,

Last week: KVSH Racing's Sebastien Bourdais and Ed Carpenter Racing's Mike Conway won doubleheader races at Toronto.

Online: indycar.com

— The Associated Press

NFI



Washington head coach Jay Gruden departs after speaking to the media after the Redskins' first day of training camp on Thursday in Richmond, Va. Gruden has drawn praise from quarterback Robert Griffin III for showing a belief in him he felt lacking under Mike Shanahan's coaching regime.

Contrasts at camp for RG3

QB Griffin more comfortable under new coaching staff

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. nstead of engaging in another round of contradictory, back-and-forth podium sessions with Mike Shanahan, Robert Griffin III stood at the microphone and said he has coaches who believe in him. He implied he wasn't even allowed to do "the bare minimum" as a quarterback a year

ago.

Griffin and the Redskins opened training camp Thursday with lots of healing and rebuilding to do. The fall from a playoff season that won him the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year award to a 3-13 season that got Shanahan fired took its toll. No, Griffin says, he didn't suddenly forget how to play quarterback last year, and new coach Jay Gruden and newly promoted offensive coordinator Sean McVay will help prove that.

"You don't go from the ability to read defenses one year and not have that ability the next, so I don't believe that one bit," Griffin said. "And it's really just a good thing to have two coaches who believe in you. Sean and Jay have done a great job. They've given me a lot on my shoulders in that quarterback

asked to do more - or just to do the bare minimum

Griffin has avoided taking overt potshots at Shanahan, but that was another subtle one. There's no forgetting the camp of 2013, when Shanahan severely limited Griffin's participation in practice and kept him out of preseason games while Grif-fin recovered from knee surgery — even as Griffin publicly lobbied otherwise. The distrust between coach and QB hit its nadir when Griffin was shut down for the final three games of the regular

Instead of a knee brace, Griffin on Thursday sported white shoes and socks on his left side and black shoes and socks on his right side. Instead of RG3-mania shrills greeting his every movement, the crowd was muted — largely because of the steady rain that kept attendance down.

But at least Griffin is practicing full-go this camp—and not playing spectator much of the time.

"I think we all know in this room it's beneficial to be out there for practice," Griffin said. "It's benefi-cial to not have to worry about an injury. ... I think everybody feels different in the organization. We just have an opportunity to come in with a lot more energy. There's a togetherness in that locker room and in the building."

room, and I cherish that. You want to be You don't go from the ability to read

defenses one year and not have that ability the next, so I don't believe that one bit. And it's really

just a good thing to have two coaches who believe in you. 7

Robert Griffin III

Washington Redskins quarterback

Briefs

Seahawks' RB Lynch expected to hold out

RENTON, Wash. - Marshawn Lynch isn't expected to be pres-ent for the first day of the Seattle Seahawks' training camp, close friend and former teammate Mi-chael Robinson said Thursday.

Appearing on NFL Network Robinson said he spoke with Lynch and Seattle's star running back plans to hold out of the camp that begins Friday.

"I really think he just wants his position in the organization and how they view him, he just wants that recalibrated a little bit." Robinson said on NFL Network. "He's been the face of the franchise, he's been the face of the organization.'

At dispute is Lynch's contract. Lynch can make up to \$5.5 million this season in base pay and roster bonuses. It's the third year of a four-year contract Lynch signed with Seattle before the 2012 season.

Lynch nearly skipped June's mandatory minicamp because he wants the final two years of his contract reworked. He ultimately showed to avoid a hefty fine, but did not participate with what coach Pete Carroll said was an ankle issue. Lynch was not present for Seattle's organized team activities during the offseason.

Punished Priefer: 'I went way below the bar'

MANKATO, Minn. - Minnesota Vikings special teams co-ordinator Mike Priefer says he "went way below the bar" with his homophobic remark in front of players that led to his looming three-game suspension.

The Vikings reported to training camp Thursday, and Priefer reiterated his apology for the antigay comment he made nearly two years ago to agitate then-punter Chris Kluwe. The words led to a six-month investigation commissioned by the Vikings in response to Kluwe's complaint, and the punishment for Priefer was announced last week.

Priefer says he's sorry for the negative publicity he brought and the insensitivity he showed. He'll serve his suspension at the start of the regular season

Cowbovs LB McClain convicted in Alabama

DECATUR, Ala. — Dallas Cowboys linebacker Rolando McClain has been convicted of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct in his hometown in Alabama

A city court judge in Decatur convicted McClain on the misde meanor counts during a non-jury trial Friday.

McClain appealed immediately to state court.

The 25-year-old was accused

of yelling an obscenity at police trying to arrest him during a dis-



eattle running back Marshawn Lynch is expected to hold out of training camp over a contract dispute with the Seahawks. Lynch is entering the third year of a four-year contract.

turbance in a crowded city park

The former Alabama Crimson Tide star maintained his inno-cence. He's been arrested three times in Decatur since 2011.

McClain tried to delay the trial so he could attend the start of NFL training camp this week, but a judge refused.

The Cowboys acquired the rights to McClain from Baltimore on July 1. He was the eighth overall pick by Oakland in 2010 but hasn't played since 2012.

Source: Gordon to meet with league on Aug. 1

CLEVELAND - The Browns may soon learn whether they'll have Josh Gordon this season.

The Pro Bowl wide receiver will have an appeal hearing with NFL officials in New York on Aug. 1, a person with knowledge of the meeting told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the discussions.

The game-breaking playmaker is facing a possible one-year ban for violating the league's substance abuse policy for at least the third time. Gordon, who had a history of marijuana abuse in college, was suspended for the first two games last season. He still led the NFL with 1,646 yards

receiving.
The 23-year-old player is expected to report to training camp Friday and he'll be on the field Saturday as the Browns have their first practice under new coach Mike Pettine.

According to reports, Gordon recently checked himself into rehab following an arrest in North Carolina. ESPN's Adam Shefter said Gordon spent two weeks at a facility in California.

MLB SCOREBOARD

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Philadelphia Hamels W.5.2, \$\frac{1}{6}\$ \$\frac{1}{6}\$ \$\frac{1}{6}\$ \$\frac{1}{6}\$\$ Used Center fielder Austin Jackson robs the Los Angeles Angels' Hamels W.5.2, \$\frac{1}{6}\$ \$\frac{1}{6}\$ \$\frac{1}{6}\$ \$\frac{1}{6}\$\$ Used Callound of a home run during the seventh inning of Thursday's \$\frac{1}{2-266}\$\$\$ \$\frac{1}{6}\$\$\$ Altimetic (Dynal) P8-Podes game in Anahelm, Calif. Detroit won 6-4.

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Tigers 6, Angels 4

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Kinsler 2b	5	0	1	2	Trout	cf	- 4	1	1 0
MiCarr 1b	- 5	1	1	0	Pujol	s 1b	3	0	1 0
VMrtnz dh	- 4	1	1	0	JHml	tn If	3	0	11
TrHntr rf	- 4	1	1	1	Ayba		- 4	0	0 0
Cstlins 3b	- 4	0	2	2	HKno		b 4	1	1 0
Avila c	- 4	0	ō	ō	Frees) 4	1	1 0
Suarez ss	3	2	2	0	Cron		- 4		1 1
RDavis If	- 4		1	0	Cong	er c	- 2	. 0	0 0
Totals	38	6	11	6	Total				8 4
Detroit						. 00		110	
Los Angel					000			010	
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geles 4. 28	3-1	SII.	151	er (27), 1	or.r	unt	er (19),
Castelland	DS (.24	υ.	Sua	arez (٥),	Iro	Jt (30),
H.Kendrick ger, SF-J.	K (2	11)	. 2	B-	Suare	2Z (1). 5	-C	on-
ger. sr-J.	ndi		ito			_			
				IΡ	н	R	ER	BB	SO
Detroit									
Scherzer W.				7	6	3	3	1	11
Chamberlai	n H,	22		1	2	1	1	0	0
Nathan S,21	-26			1	0	0	0	0	3
Los Angeles	5								
Richards L,1	11-3			6	7	- 4	- 4	2	5
Grilli				1	2 2 0	1	1	1	5
Salas				1	2	1	1	0	1
J.Smith				1	0	ō	ō	ō	1

Brewers 9, Mets 1 New York Milwaukee

Grndrs rf DnMrp 2b DWrght 3b Duda 1b dArnad c CYoung lf Flores ss Lagars cf Gee p EYong ph Matszk p Campll ph Evelnd p Totals New York Milwauke LOB—N R. Weeks (7). 3B—S	3 3 3 3 3 0 1 0 1 0 28 e	00100000000001 Y	h 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2	0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1	. Milv	fr cf oy c n rf ny p nr 3b rr 3b ks 2b vis lf vnl 1b ira s: a p ay p ls 0 00 vaul	0 4 4 0 1-rf 0 3 5-3b 5 4 1 1-1b 34	2 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 2 3 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	-1 -9 B-
croy (12), C.Gomez (Bra	ıи	n (14). K.D	avis	(17). S	B-
				IP	н	R	ER	ВВ	SO
New York Gee L,4-3 Matsuzaka Eveland Milwaukee Garza W,7-7 Gorzelanny T —2:38		-2	9,7	5 2 1 8 1 55	6 3 1 2 0 (41,90	6 3 0 1 0 00).	6 3 0 1	2 0 0	6 2 1 4 0

rigers o, Angels 4	White Sox 5, Twins 2					
Detroit Los Angeles abrh bi abrh bi	Chicago Minnesota					
Alckant 6 1 2 1 Calhon ff 4 0 2 2 Kinsler 25 0 1 2 Trout 6 1 1 1 0 Micart 10 5 1 1 0 Pajole 11 3 0 1 1 0 Pajole 11 1 1 Ajbars 8 0 0 0 Callins 10 4 0 2 2 Hindre 25 4 1 1 0 Pajole 11 1 1 Ajbars 8 0 0 0 Pajole 11 1 1 Ajbars 8 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 Ajbars 10 1 1 1 1 1 Ajbars 10 1 1 1 1 1 1 Ajbars 10 1 1 1 1 1 Ajbars 10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	ab r h bi sala sala sala sala sala sala sala sal					
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Detroit Scherzer W,12-3 7 6 3 3 1 11 Chamberlain H,22 1 2 1 1 0 0 Nathan S,21-26 1 0 0 0 0 3	Chicago 7 7% 3 2 2 1 3 Noesi W,5-7 7% 3 2 2 1 3 D,Webb H,3 35 0 0 0 0 0 Petricka S,5-6 1 0 0 0 2					
Los Angeles Richards L,11-3 6 7 4 4 2 5 Binili 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 WP New Force New Force	Minnesota 4 2 2 0 4 PHughes L,10-7 3 4 2 2 0 4 Deduno 4 6 3 2 1 2 Pressly 2 1 0 0 1 1 2 2 1 2 2 1 2 2 1 2 2 0 4 1 2 2 0 4 1 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 4 2 2 0 0 1 1 2 2 0 1 2 2 0 2 1 2 2 0 2 1 2 2 2 2					

Royals 2, Indians 1 (14)

	ab	r	h	bi		зb	r	h	bi
Kipnis 2b	5	0	0	0	JDyson cf	5	0	0	0
Aviles If	2	0	0	0	Infante 2b	4	0	1	0
DvMrp ph-rf	3	0	1	0	AGordn If	5		0	0
Brantly cf	6	0	0	0	S.Perez c	5	0	0	0
CSantn 1b	4	1	2	0	Mostks 3b		1	1	0
Raburn rf-lf	2	0	0	0	L.Cain rf	5	1	1	0
ChDckr ph-l	f 1	0	0	0	BButler 1b	3	0	0	0
Swisher dh	6	0	0	0	Hosmer 1b	0	0	0	0
YGoms c	6	0	1	1	Ibanez ph-1b		0	1	0
Chsnhll 3b	6	ō	2	0	Valenci ph		0	0	0
JRmrz ss	5	0	1	0	Aoki dh	5	0	1	1
					AEscor ss	4	0	0	0
	46	1	7	1		43	2	5	1
Cleveland				nnn	000 001 0	nn	n	n_	.1

(2), S—Ch.Dicker	renn	III (1	4). C	,s-	IIIId	ш
(L). D OILDICKE	IP	н	R	ER	ВВ	SC
Cleveland						
Kluber	9	2	1	0	0	10
Shaw	13/5	1	0	0	1	(
Atchison	135	0	0	0	0	- (
Rzepczynski L,0-3	1	1	ī	1	0	1
Axford	36	1	0	0	0	1
Kansas City						
Duffy	7	2	0	0	2	- 1
W.Davis	i	2 2 2	ō	ō	ī	- 1
G.Holland BS.2-28	1	2	1	1	1	(
Bueno	135	ō	ō	0	ī	- 3
Frasor	36	0	0	0	0	1
S.Downs	2	1	0	0	1	(
Crow W,5-1	.1.	. 0	. 0	.0	.0	3

Rzepczynski pitched to 1 batter in the 14th. T—4:23. A—22,120 (37,903).

Padres 13, Cubs 3

San Diego				Chicago				
ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Amarst ss 6	2	1	2	Bonifac cf	5	0	1	0
Solarte 2b-3b4	1	0	1	Alcantr 2b	5	1	2	0
S.Smith rf 4	2	3	1	Rizzo 1b	- 4	2	1	0
Francr ph-rf 1	0	0	0	SCastro ss	- 4	0	2	1
Grandl 1b 4	2	1	ī	Coghin If	- 4	0	ī	1
	1	3	2	Valuen 3b	- 4	0	1	1
	1	1	0	Sweeny rf	- 4	0	0	0
CNelsn 3b 4	1	1	2	JoBakr c	- 4	0	1	0
Petersn ph-2b 0	0	0	0	EJcksn p	1	0	0	0
Rivera c 5	2	3	3	Schlittr'p	0	0	0	0
T.Ross p 3	1	1	0	Wrght p	0	0	0	0
Stauffr p 0	0	0	0	Russell p	0	0	0	0
Vincent p 1	0	0	0	Schrhlt ph	1	0	0	0
				Strop p	0	0	0	0
				Lake ph	1	0	0	0
				HRndn p	0	0	0	0
Totals 42	13	14	12	Totals	37	3	9	. 3

San Diego 200 019 001 – 13 Chicago 000 100 020–3 E-Rivera (7), Grandal (6), Valbuena (6), Coghlan (3), LOB-San Diego 8, Chi-cago 10, 28–S,Smith (21), Josaker (5), 3B–Grandal (1), HR-Rivera (7), SB–Al-captara (4), S-F lackson SE-Solarte

	IP	н	R	ER	BB	SC
San Diego						
T.Ross W,9-10	6	5	1	1	- 1	1
Stauffer	135	3	2	2	- 1	- 1
Vincent	135	1	0	0	0	
Chicago						
E.Jackson L,5-11	5	7	5	- 4	- 1	-
Schlitter	0	3	6	5	- 1	- 0
W.Wright	1	4	1	- 1	0	- 1
Russell	1	0	0	0	- 1	- 1
Strop	1	0	0	0	- 1	
H.Rondon	1	0	1	0	0	
E.Jackson p	itched	to 2	bat	ters	in	th
6th, Schlitter of	itched	to 6	bat	ters	in	the

6th. HBP-by Schlitter (T.Ross). WP-T.Ross, Stauffer, E.Jackson 2. T-3:36. A-31,321 (41,072).

Orioles 4, Mariners 0

	ab	r	h	bi			ab	r	h bi
Markks rf	4	1	1	1	J.Jone	es c	f 3	0	0 0
DYong dh	4	1	2	3	Rome	rrf	- 4		1 0
A.Jones cf	- 4	0	0	0	Cano	2b	- 4	0	0 0
N.Cruz If	4	0	1	0	Hart I		3	0	1 0
Lough pr-If	0	0	0	0	EnCh			0	0 0
C.Davis 1b	- 4	0	1	0	Seage	2r 3l	9	0	1 0
JHardy ss	- 4	0	0	0	JMon'		h 3	0	0 0
Schoop 2b	4	0	0	0	Morrs	sn p	h 1	0	0 0
Flahrty 3b	- 4	1	ĭ	0	Ackle	y It	. 3	0	1 0
CJosph c	3	1	2	0	Zunin	0 C	3	0	0 0
			_		Taylo	rss	.3	0	1 0
Totals Baltimore	35	4	8	4	Total:	٠,,	32		5 0
					004)-4)-0
Seattle LOB-Bi	- 14:	_							iR-
D.Young (4	alti	IIII	JE 6	2 4,	5ed	LLIE	: 0.	- /5	18-
D. Young (4	·). :)D							
				IP	н	R	ER	BB	SO
Baltimore									
W.Chen W.11	1-3			8	5	0	0	- 1	3
O'Day				ī	0	0	0	0	- 1
Seattle									
Iwakuma L.8	-5			7	7	4	4	0	- 5
Medina				1	i	ó	Ó	ō	ī
Furbush				ī	0	0	ō	ō	5 1 3
T-2:44.	Δ-	-1	9.6	521 (47.47	6).			

Calendar

July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y. July 31 — Last day to trade a player without securing waivers. Aug. 12-14 — "Owners" meetings, Bal-

timore.

Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 40

timore. 1. — Active rosters expand to 40 players.
Sopt. 30 — Postseason begins.
Oct. 2. — Word Series begins, city of Series begins.
November 18A. — Deadline for teams or make qualifying offers to their eligible for make the series of the series. The series of the ser

MLB

Surging Yanks beat Rangers

New additions McCarthy, Headley quick to make impact in New York

NEW YORK - Brandon Mc-Carthy and Chase Headley are quickly putting their stamp on a playoff surge for the New York

Acquired earlier this month from NL West also-rans, they teamed up Thursday to help the Yankees beat the Texas Rangers 4-2. McCarthy threw six more solid innings, Headley delivered another timely hit and New York won for the sixth time in seven games.

"From the beginning of spring training, it's about giving yourself a chance in the postseason," said Headley, obtained this week in a trade with San Diego.

'What an opportunity for me," he said. "I take it as an honor and privilege to be here."

McCarthy improved to 2-0 with a 1.45 ERA in three starts since the Yankees got him from Arizona. He was 3-10 with a 5.01 ERA at the time of the trade.

"I really felt I wanted more pressure," he said. "It's ramped up all the way. I feel like I've responded."



SOLIROF: The Associated Press

"It's the opposite of how I felt earlier in this year. I was a burden on the team and holding things up," he said.

Yankees from Arizona.

With the Yankees, the newcom ers are now in the thick of the race for the AL East crown and the wild-card spots.

"When you go out and get players that produce, it's a lift for your team." Yankees manager Joe Girardi said



The Yankees' Chase Headley hits a fourth-inning RBI single, driving in Brett Gardner, during Thursday's game against the Texas Rangers in New York. The Yankees won 4-2.

Texas fell to 3-17 in July and dropped 22 games under .500 for the first time since the final week of the 1988 season.

"Right now, we're just not get-ting it done," Rangers manager Ron Washington said.

McCarthy limited Texas to one run and four hits in six innings. He struck out five, and fanned Alex Rios to finish off an 11-nitch at-bat that ended the first inning

Rios almost got even in the eighth with Texas trailing 3-2, hitting a drive off All-Star reliever Dellin Betances that was caught on the warning track in right field.

David Robertson pitched the ninth for his 25th save in 27 chances.

Colby Lewis (6-8) gave up three runs and four hits in 61/3 innings. He took the loss, but kept his composure - in his previous start, he got rankled when Toronto's Colby Rasmus bunted for a two-out single midway through the game.

There were no problems with the field at Yankee Stadium, either. New York won 2-1 Wednesday night when a sudden, heavy storm prevented the grounds crew from quickly putting the tarp down in the fifth inning. The rain stopped soon enough, but the field was too wet to continue

Roundup

Royals top Tribe in 14th

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Nori Aoki singled home Lorenzo Cain in the 14th inning to lift Kansas City over Cleveland 2-1 after Indians starter Corey Kluber carried a perfect game into the seventh

Aaron Crow (5-1), the seventh Kansas City pitcher, earned the victory — striking out the side in a perfect 14th.

Marc Rzepcynski (0-3) took the loss.

Kluber held the Royals to two hits, retiring the first 19 batters he faced before Omar Infante lined a single to center.

Kluber, who allowed only one unearned run in nine innings, struck out 10 and walked none

Athletics 13. Astros 1: Brandon Moss hit a grand slam and Oakland gave Jeff Samardzija more run support than he has had all season in a victory over visiting Houston.

Jed Lowrie had three hits and drove in a run for the A's, who have the best record (63-38) in baseball and are a season-best 25 games over .500.

Tigers 6. Angels 4: Nick Castellanos drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a double in the sixth inning, and Max Scherzer won his fourth straight decision, leading visiting Detroit over

Los Angeles. Scherzer (12-3) tied teammate Rick Porcello and New York's Masahiro Tanaka for the American League lead in wins. He allowed three runs and six hits over seven innings and struck out 11 It was the fourth time this season and 22nd in his career that he had

double digits in strikeouts.

Marlins 3, Braves 2: Jarrod Saltalamacchia drove in the goahead run in the ninth inning. Henderson Alvarez won for the first time in three starts and Miami beat host Atlanta.

In taking three of four games the Marlins won just their second road series in the last 10 against

Orioles 4, Mariners 0: Wie-Yen Chen allowed five hits over eight innings, and Delmon Young hit a three-run homer to give Baltimore a victory over host Seattle.

Chen (11-3), who has won his past four starts, scattered five singles, walked one and struck

out three His 11 wins tie him for third-most in the American League. On the road, Chen is 6-1 with a 3.94 ERA in nine starts Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 0: Mar-

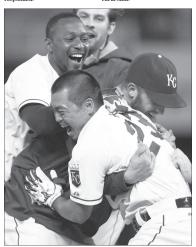
cus Stroman and two relievers combined on a one-hitter. Juan Francisco drove in four runs and came within a double of the cycle and host Toronto shut out Boston.

Phillies 2, Giants 1: Cole Hamels pitched eight strong innings and Chase Utley had a tiebreaking single in the fifth inning to lift host Philadelphia over San

White Sox 5, Twins 2: Hec-tor Noesi allowed three hits over 2/3 innings and Adam Eaton had three hits and two RBIs to lead visiting Chicago over Minnesota.

Padres 13, Cubs 3: Tyson Ross struck out a career-high 11 and light-hitting San Diego broke out for a season-best nine runs in the sixth inning in a rout of host Chicago.

Brewers 9. Mets 1: Matt Garza allowed two hits over eight innings to rebound from a horrendous outing, and Ryan Braun hit one of three homers for host Milwaukee in a victory over New York.



The Royals' Nori Aoki, front, is congratulated by Jarrod Dyson, top left, Aaron Crow, top, and Danny Duffy, right, after driving in the game-winning run during the 14th inning of Thursday's game ago the Cleveland Indians at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo.

MLB



San Francisco Giants prospects Jose Murel, left, and Sandy Perez read beginner English books during class in Scottsdale, Ariz., on May 22. The Giants are just one of many major league teams putting a stronger emphasis on teaching English basics, including training as to writing checks, using a bank account or mailing a letter.

For Latin American prospects, ESL classes now part of ...

By Janie McCauley ■ The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO uring a friendly dugout chat before a game, Hecfor Sanchet joked about the hazards of catching for hard-throwing San Francisco starter Tim Lincecum because of the number of balls that must be stopped in the dirt.

"Another day at the office," he said, grinning.
Sanchez uses the typical English phrase naturally these

days after hours of hard work in English classes while playing in the minor leagues. He puts his improved English skills right up there with his biggest strides on the field, which include catching Lincecum's June 25 no-hitter.

Hundreds of other young Latin American players around

the country are also speaking with ease, thanks to greater re-sources devoted to teaching English skills and other day-to-day tasks in American life as part of the transition to baseball in the U.S. All 30 major league teams now have academies in the Dominican Republic, and a handful of organizations run similar operations in Venezuela as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

You're in another country, a different country and this is like a challenge for you, so you have to take the challenge to survive."

Hector Sanchez

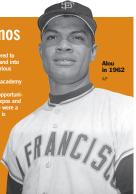
Giants backup catcher, who took English classes while playing in the minor leagues



MATT YORK/AP

MLB

Alou, Cepeda happy with progress of young Latinos pray professional paseball, build new lives and send money back home. It was their chance to make it in the sport they loved, provided they could overcome challenges that often extended beyond the



"There's no doubt it's different today than it was a generation ago for these players, with the media coverage, the impact of social media, the coverage, the televi-sion, everything," San Diego Pa-dres manager Bud Black said. These guys are exposed."

Sanchez's Giants say they have increased spending by 400 percent over the past decade.

"It has increased steadily each year as we have added more components to the assimilation program," said Alan Lee, Giants Director of Arizona Baseball Operations.

The Giants estimate they have

helped train 325 Latin players with English skills in the past 15 years, while also providing Spanish training for those seeking to learn. Roughly 200 players have taken Spanish courses in the past four years.

Black and several other managers and GMs say there are fewer issues in which the language bar-rier causes their jobs to be more challenging than even five years ago. For example, most managers now make their pitching changes without the aid of an interpreter.

Some still prefer an interpreter when sending a player down to the minors or explaining certain technical aspects of a swing, pitching motion or other instruction.

'If there's something in particular that I need a player to understand and I can't have any confusion, I go through an interpreter with the player and I instruct the interpreter to tell him exactly what I say the way I say it." said Rangers manager Ron Washington, who speaks only the most basic Spanish. "I don't want vour interpretation, because the way I would express it is for effect. If you change that effect, you just changed my interpretation. Sanchez made learning Eng-

lish as much a part of his job as studying his pitchers and their tendencies. He had to be able to speak with the pitchers, so he took classes on the computer via Skype before and after games.

"It's not just for the position," Sanchez said. "You're in another



ESL instructor Carol Gabb, right, regularly fist-bumps players to celebrate and encourage their progress. Below: Gabb assists Giants prospect Rafael Martinez with his reading.



country, a different country and this is like a challenge for you, so you have to take the challenge to

While Sanchez is proving a reliable option as Buster Posey's backup in the Bay Area, the fu-

ture of the franchise minor leaguers — sits in class-rooms at the team's training complex in Scottsdale, Ariz., taking evening English classes as their empty practice fields are watered outside in the desert heat. The men walk past World Series logos on the walls as they arrive, a reminder of the team's championships in 2010 and '12.

The lessons include English basics, including training in how to write checks, use a bank account or mail a letter. There's even training on how to conduct a

even training on now to conduct a simple telephone call. "We didn't have that. We had to learn from scratch," said 76-year-old Hall of Famer Orlando Cepeda, a Puerto Rican among the first group of Latinos playing baseball in the U.S. "(Talking) with the players, that's what I did (to learn)."

Carol Gabb is the lead English instructor for the Giants' minor leaguers. She regularly fist-bumps players throughout a session to celebrate and encourage their progress. During one class this spring, everybody sang "Happy Birthday" to work on the simple meanings behind the

Players, much like school

children, laugh, talk out of turn, stretch, kick off their flip flops, curl their toes when reading, make faces, or even smile sheep ishly when they answer correctly and are given praise.

A few years back, this was Sanchez. He also carved out time in his busy baseball life to take one-on-one classes. He started the sessions during his first pro-fessional season, rookie ball in 2009, but took it to another level

in 2012.
"I get the opportunity to take English classes and I take advantage, and tried to learn every day," Sanchez said, his grammar still not perfect but close. "That's all about it, getting better, learning. That's how you survive in

Longtime Giants equipment manager Mike Murphy has nicknamed the affable catcher after actor George Clooney, and Sanchez immediately plays along by pulling off his black Giants cap and rubbing his hair - which, while far darker, is almost a spitting image of Clooney's precisely groomed 'do.

On another day this spring near the dugout, reliever Santiago Casilla used a mix of English and Spanish to ask Giants athletic trainer Dave Groeschner for medicine to help alleviate a pregame headache.

"I understand everything but it's a little bit difficult to speak it clearly. It doesn't scare me, but I understand more studying while I listen," he said.

While Seattle second baseman Robinson Cano is at ease speaking fluent English, the Dominican star regularly can be seen razzing teammates while speaking Spanish a mile a minute. Cano briefly attended high school in New Jersey.

"I went to school here, so I learned English," said Cano, who received a \$240 million, 10-year contract to join the Mariners last offseason after nine years with the New York Yankees, "But it's hard speaking your second language."

AP Photographer Matt York in Scottsdale, Arizona, contributed to this

